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REPORTAGE ON FALKLANDS, NEGOTIATIONS WITH UK

Alfonsin Interviewed in DAILY MAIL

PY181910 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1612 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Feb (TELAM) -- In an interview granted yesterday in the London newspaper DAILY MAIL, President Raul Alfonsin expressed his readiness to accept the British proposal on the Malvinas Islands as a basis to begin negotiations between Great Britain and Argentina. The DAILY MAIL published the interview on the front page of today's issue. The interview covered the entire page, under the headline: Argentina Ready to Talk About Peace, as reported by EFE. EFE also reported that the interview was granted yesterday to journalist Amit Roy. According to Roy, Alfonsin will explain the situation to the Argentine people next week, and hopes that talks between the two countries will resume afterward.

Although Argentina has stated that it will not give up sovereignty over the islands, Alfonsin stated in the interview that we would like to begin talks with an open agenda. Regarding the Argentine answer to London on the offer received toward the end of January, the president explained that in the answer we have accepted the points which Great Britain would like to discuss, and we have added others that we would like to discuss. Alfonsin said that we want to be open to explore any possible way to solve this problem, and added that in any case, the solutions to our problems are peaceful.

In answer to a question on the official cessation of hostilities, the Argentine president stated that, first of all, we are at total peace, and added that since there was no formal declaration of war, he does not find it necessary to declare a cease-fire. On the same subject, he said that it is possible that the two countries will return to the situation that existed before the war, and that if some misunderstanding appears, then the United Nations must act as mediator.

The interviewer felt that Alfonsin is a man who understands all the difficulties, but who feels that the first step must be a return to the situation existing before the war. He also referred to a possible meeting with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, and added that he is prepared for a similar event, but that Mrs Thatcher is a woman, and that it is very difficult to argue with a woman: It would be better to talk with Mr Thatcher.

Government Answers UK Note

PY171725 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1645 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 17 Feb (TELAM) -- The Argentine Government has delivered to the Brazilian Embassy here the Argentine reply to the UK note of 26 January on the Malvinas conflict, Foreign Ministry Press Director Albino Gomez reported today. Gomez said the reply was delivered last night and that no futher information on this subject will be released for the time being.

Government Awaits UK Answer

PY201628 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1445 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Feb (TELAM) -- Presidential Spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez today said that the Argentine Government is awaiting the answer of Great Britain on the Malvinas Islands regarding the former's suggestion to return to the status prevailing before 2 April 1982.

In response to questions about unofficial U.S. actions to encourage resumption of talks between Argentina and Great Britain, the spokesman said that "there is nothing at all." Lopez made his statement to the press at the press hall of Government House, where he admitted that Argentina has received certain ideas from Great Britain and has made some contributions to the negotiations for the resumption of talks on the Malvinas issue. He said that one of these ideas is the return to the status prevailing before the war, just as President Raul Alfonsin proposed during a trip he made to Venezuela at the beginning of this month.

The spokesman made it clear that Argentina will not give up its legitimate rights over the South Atlantic archipelago. He explained that suggestions and proposals are being assembled at this stage through channels established at the Brazilian Embassy, which takes care of Argentine affairs, and the Swiss Embassy, which acts for Great Britain. Lopez indicated that the Argentine Government is awaiting the British answer to its proposal to revert to the situation prevailing prior to 2 April 1982.

He said that an interview with President Alfonsin, reprinted by a Buenos Aires daily after having been originally published by the DAILY MAIL of London, is essentially accurate but contains certain interpretations which do not reflect the opinion of the president. He explained that the interview published by the British daily claims that President Alfonsin accepted the British proposal and this is not true. It is merely an interpretation of the journalist.

Lopez emphasized that the Argentine Government wants to launch negotiations with an open agenda to talk about everything, but it is not willing to give up its legitimate rights to the Malvinas Islands. Concerning a news report that President Alfonsin and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher had talked on the telephone, the spokesman stressed that press speculation should not be taken seriously. Since the journalists accredited to Government House kept asking whether it is possible that such contacts will be held on the phone, Lopez answered that everything is possible.

The spokesman went on to recall President Alfonsin's remarks on the need for certain guarantees at the talks about the islands and said that the United Nations would be an appropriate forum for these talks. Lopez said that the president has decided as a matter of course to brief the people on the matter in a broad and suitable manner, but the way he will do it has not yet been decided.

As to the meeting between President Aflonsin and the united CGT [General Confederation of Labor], Lopez said that some decision could be forthcoming this week.

'High-Ranking Source' Comments

PY201732 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1415 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Feb (NA) -- A high-ranking Foreign Ministry source has described the report on possible phone talks between President Raul Alfonsin and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher as "sheer nonsense." The source went on to say that the fact that the United States is encouraging Argentine-British talks "is nothing new," but stressed that this does not mean that the United States "has changed its neutral position." The source added: "These reports are a mix of good will, wishful thinking, and intrigue aimed at making things more difficult. The final word is that of the official answer of the Argentine Government.

The source indicated that "at least at the diplomatic level, the United States has, even at the most critical points of the southern conflict, maintained a neutral attitude and tried to interpose its good offices."

According to the source, "Argentina is not planning to return to bilateral talks, which would lead to a repetition of past episodes. There is an internatinal commitment that has been made in the Unted Nations, but for Argentina the main objective is to have its sovereignty over the islands recognized." The source added that "all this leads to comings and goings about who will have the final word. In the final analysis, it is the British constituency who may not be in full agreement with the attitude of the current administration."

The source indicated that "the fact that the United States is encouraging negotiations is nothing new and does not mean that it has discarded its neutral position, which Secretary of State George Shultz recently reaffirmed in Caracas when he attended the presidential inauguration."

Foreign Ministry officials also said that they did not know when President Alfonsin will address the nation to explain the status of the negotiations to resolve the Malvinas conflict. They said that "a lot of work was done on the subject last week, but the final decision is up to the president alone."

Ministry Disavows 'Sources'

PY201751 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1623 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Feb (TELAM) -- The Argentine Foreign Ministry today issued a communique indicating that information related to Argentine foreign policy is not valid unless it is provided by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo or his spokesman, Albino Gomez. The official communique, which was released at noon today at the press room of the Foreign Ministry, is directed at frequent reports attributed to foreign ministry officials or authorized sources that the news media have been carrying.

The communique added that any information related to the Foreign Ministry that is not supplied by Minister Dante Caputo or his spokesman Albino Gomez is not valid. The journalists accredited to the Foreign Ministry agree that the official warning is tied to media reports on alleged actions of the United States in connection with the Malvinas issue, although the Foreign Ministry did not provide any more details.

Admiral Proposes Harassment of UK

PY171404 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 Feb 84 p 14

[Text] Buenos Aires -- In a letter addressed to the president of the Institute of Argentine Southern Territories, Vice Admiral Lauro Destefani yesterday proposed to create a group of commandos to harass the British troops on the Malvinas Islands. He also proposed the manufacture of a surface-to-surface missile for this purpose. The newspaper LA VOZ published the letter yesterday under the headline "A Delirious Belligerent Spirit."

During the interview with a radio in Mar del Plata, Admiral Horacio Zaratiegui, who commanded the Argentine naval forces during the Malvinas war, yesterday said that his ships could not operate efficiently, because there were large numbers of Chilean warships in the area ready to attack.

Solari Yrigoyen Criticizes UK

PY170200 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2311 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 Feb (EFE) -- The Argentine Government will struggle "with all peaceful means available to it" to recover the Malvinas Islands, even though Great Britain has been turning them into an "area of tension and conflict."

Special Argentine Ambassador Hipolito Solari Yrigoyen made these remarks in an exclusive interview with EFE today. Upon his return from a Latin American and European tour during which he met various political figures, Solari Yrigoyen accused the British Government of turning "into an area of tension and conflict what we want to be an area of peace."

He went on to say: "We want to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations which call for peaceful negotiations with Great Britain to solve the problem posed by the sovereignty of the Malvinas, Georgias, and South Sandwich Islands." He added: "We hope that Mrs Margaret Thatcher's administration will also respect the resolutions of the the United Nations, something which it has failed to do so far, despite the fact that many of the EEC countries have so advised."

Solari Yrigoyen stated that there are British sectors who want to hold talks with Argentina because they do not agree with the "warmongering policy" of the British Prime Minister. "Although the Labor, Liberal, or Social Democratic Parties have reached no official decisions," Solari Yrigoyen said, "several British politicians of these leanings oppose the course taken by the British Government." Despite this, no British parliamentarians are scheduled to visit Argentina in the near future but, "to the extent that it is in keeping with the peaceful policy of the Argentine constitutional government, dialogue is not impossible."

Solari Yrigoyen, who had been arrested by the military junta and later went into exile, recently acted as President Alfonsin's personal representative in trying to bring back fellow countrymen in exile and extended to them an official invitation to return. Solari Yrigoyen personally feels that those responsible for outrages perpetrated during the military regime should be tried to civilian courts. However, he said that he accepts the decision of the government to have the military appear before their own courts, keeping open the possibility of appealing to the civilian courts later. He insisted: "There will be justice, not vengeance here. The purpose is to bring out the truth and that justice be done to those responsible."

Concerning the law on trade unions which is being discussed in Congress, Solari Yrigoyen explained that the executive cannot give up on certain items which are essential for the "democratization" of the unions which are controlled by the Peronists. According to Alfonsin's representatives, the items in question are absolutely clean elections, all workers having a right to elect and be elected, and representation of minorities.

RADICAL DEPUTY ON STATUS OF BEAGLE, FALKLANDS

PY201318 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Excerpt] A Radical Civic Union deputy has made several remarks on the Beagle and Malvinas issue in Mar del Plata. Jose Bielicki told the TELAM news agency that negotiations aimed at resolving the Beagle conflict with Chile will be stepped up, keeping in mind the need to preserve Argentine sovereign interests based on the two-ocean principle that President Raul Alfonsin reaffirmed throughout his campaign. Bielicki also said that the Argentine Foreign Ministry will soon released the full text of the pope's proposal. He said that the interests and responsibility of the nation are at stake in this matter.

The deputy also talked about the answer which Argentina gave to London on the Malvinas issue. He indicated that the document sent to the British Government is based on the proposal to return to the prewar status of the island. Bielicki explained, however, that the imperialist interests of Great Britain are very, very large. The United Kingdom does not want to give up the islands, he said, because of their strategic and economic significance.

POLICE MOBILIZE TO ESTABLISH,SAFEGUARD ORDER

PY171855 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata has informed Radio Panamericana that the Bolivian police have been mobilized throughout the nation to establish order and safeguard the people from any social disruptions. The interior minister noted that the general situation in the country is calm, despite the number of measures that have been adopted by some sectors in the last few days. He rejected the possibility that the government will enforce a state of siege because of the difficult situation. He said: We trust the people and we do not believe that anything will be solved by enforcing a state of seige.

ARMED FORCES VOICE SUPPORT FOR SILES ZUAZO

PY181045 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2332 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] La Paz, 17 Feb (EFE) -- Bolivian President Hernan Siles Zuazo today received an expression of total support from the military leadership, and rumors that he had submitted his resignation were denied. During a meeting held with the president at the military headquarters in La Paz, the Bolivian Armed Forces professed their democratic convictions and conveyed their support for the Constitution and the government.

Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena denied rumors that President Siles Zuazo had submitted his resignation to the High Command during the meeting he held with top military leaders. Rueda Pena termed the rumor, disseminated by certain local radio stations, as "sheer irresponsibility" because the president is still in office and plans to fulfill his constitutional term, which ends in 1986.

Government spokesmen said that President Siles Zuazo shared a working breakfast with military commanders at which the Armed Forces leadership conveyed their absolute support for the democratic process. Defense Minister Manuel Cardenas Mallo indicated that the president and the High Military Command primarily discussed the current status of the Armed Forces, the economic and political crisis, and the morale of the commanders of institutes and units.

The minister said that Siles Zuazo was told of the coupist intentions of certain political groups that went knocking on barracks doors trying to convince certain leaders to stage a coup d'etat. These attempts at staging a coup, in a country used to them, did not succeed because the military officers categorically rejected them. The minister added that these politicians, whose names he did not mention, "are the very same ones who participated in bloody coups d'etat of the then Colonel Alberto Natusch (1979) and of General Luis Garcia Meza (1980). Cardenas Mallo stated that the commanders of the Armed Forces reaffirmed their total respect for the Constitution, the law, and democracy. Speaking about the economic crisis besieging Bolivia, Cardenas Mallo said that the military is concerned over the effect which current problems may have on the political situation in the nation.

The growing social unease prevailing in Bolivia due to a wave of strikes, stoppages, and workers blockades once again gave rise to rumors of the possible resignation of President Siles Zuazo, rumors which the government denied.

In view of the serious economic and political crisis, Siles Zuazo and Juan Lechin Oquendo, leader of the powerful Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), held a confidential meeting today to evaluate the situation. According to government sources contacted by EFE, Siles Zuazo and Lechin Oquendo, who so far have remained irreconcilable political rivals, expressed concern over the political crisis looming over the democracy and over the alleged coupist movements aimed at destabilizing this democracy.

RICE PRICE CAUSES BLOCKADE, CALL FOR RESIGNATION

PY171445 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Through a communique, the Federation of La Paz Neighborhood Councils has announced that it will hold a mass protest on Friday. In the communique, the federation expressed its annoyance at the industry minister's decision to increase the price of a quintal of rice to an astonishing figure. The federation noted that the industry minister's real price policy has not been accepted at all by the working classes, since their low salaries do not allow them to cope with this situation.

After a long discussion, the federation, which includes all La Paz neighborhood councils, has decided to block all roads and access highways in La Paz to protest the industry minister's decisions. According to the communique, the blockade will be held from 0700 to 1400.

Furthermore, in keeping with union decisions, La Paz peasants have been blocking local roads since 0000 on Thursday, demanding the resignation of Campesino Affairs Minister Jorge Medina Pinedo. According to reliable sources, the peasants are demanding that a man with a peasant background should be appointed peasant affairs minister.

Meanwhile, the National Federation of Mining Cooperatives decided to lift the road blockades and other pressure tactics immediately after the government issued Decree No 20,831, through which it authorized the Central Bank to disburse 1.1 billion Bolivian pesos to pay 62 percent of the sum owed to mining cooperatives. The decree established that the remaining 38 percent of the debt claimed by the mining cooperatives will be paid within 60 days of the signing of the decree.

As of today, the Federation of Mining Cooperatives has declared a 10-day waiting period. The federation states that if the decree is not complied with during this period, the federation will again resort to the same measures of pressure.

Campesino Affairs Minister Resigns

PY201821 Paris AFP in Spanish 1455 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Excerpt] La Paz, 20 Feb (AFP) -- Today in La Paz analysts said that the resignation of Campesino Affairs Minister Jorge Medina Pinedo, which was submitted a few hours ago, opens the possibility for solving the serious Bolivian political crisis.

The resignation was demanded by peasants who blocked the most important roads of the country. The peasants said that Medina was not aware of the problems in the agricultural sector.

The government has been able to delay for a few hours a 48-hour strike ordered by the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB), which is demanding a 4-month freeze on prices of five basic products.

The COB has requested the replacement of Foreign Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado and Energy Minister Carlos Miranda for sponsoring the sale of natural gas to Brazil in an operation compromising 65 percent of the national reserves.

Another minister in trouble is Industry and Commerce Minister Oscar Bonifaz of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), who refuses to maintain state subsidies on food products, which, he said, facilitates the smuggling of these products to neighboring countries.

At the same time, the Chamber of Deputies has criticized Mining Minister Carlos Carvajal of the Bolivian Communist Party (PCB) for a swindle in the sale of 400 tons of tin.

Foreign, Industry Ministers Resign

PY210215 Paris AFP in Spanish 0054 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] La Paz, 20 Feb (AFP) -- Sources linked to the Bolivian Government asserted here today that Foreign Minister Jose Ortiz Mercado and Industry and Commerce Minister Oscar Bonifaz have submitted their resignations.

The Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] had demanded Ortiz Mercado and Energy Minister Carlos Miranda Pacheco's resignation in protest of the negotiations that the two ministers had started to sell natural gas to Brazil. Moreover, the left-wing weekly AQUI disclosed that the foreign minister is allegedly involved in a destabilizing process against the government and that for that purpose he had started talks with some military circles. The workers had also requested Bonifaz' resignation because he was in favor of cutting subsidies for staples.

Peasant Affairs Minister Jorge Medina Pinedo has also resigned recently. This minister was criticized by the Bolivian peasants because, according to them, the minister is not aware of this sector's problems.

The tense political situation experienced some changes when Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata admitted that he would be willing to hold talks with opposition leaders Victor Paz Estenssoro of the Historic Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR-H), and with Hugo Banzer Suarez, Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN), to seek solutions to the Bolivian political crisis.

Defense Minister Manuel Cardenas Mallo believes that the destabilization process directed against Hernan Siles Zuazo's government is being carried out simultaneously by the Congress, private enterprise, and the COB.

The national cabinet is holding intense meetings to approve several decrees demanded by the workers such as the freezing of prices of five staples. Should these measures not be approved, the COB allegedly would immediately order a national 48-hour stoppage.

COMMENTARY DISCUSSES MILITARY-CIVILIAN RELATIONS

PY171755 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Feb 84 p 2

[By Joaquin Falcao: "The Military and the Constitution"]

[Text] What is at stake in Brasilia these days is not just the question of direct or indirect elections. It is a broader question. The future of military-civilian relations is at stake. The issue of the military and politics is at stake. Until just recently these camps were gradually separating. The military wanted to withdraw more and more from the political activities in which they have been involved in recent years, limiting themselves to their constitutional functions and to maintaining strict respect for the Constitution. This separation process has now been disturbed, as the president's meeting with presidential hopefuls indicates.

The reason for the disturbance is very simple: Strict respect for the Constitution also demands strict respect for the process established in the Constitution for its amendment. Respect for the Constitution and noninterference in politics demand respect for constitutional amendments to the Constitution. It also demands no interference in the congressmen's exclusive function of amending the Constitution under the constitution's own provisions. This is an exclusive function of congressmen, and no one else. The president's meeting with presidential hopefuls shows that the military is interfering in this process.

The decision of the military to stay in politics -- a decision that makes them responsible for the political, social, and economic crisis in Brazil -- is prompted by fear that direct elections will cause the country's Argentinization. Although this fear is unwarranted (in the view of most responsible opposition and progovernment politicians), it does exist. This fear is a real and new fact. It defies the patience and imagination of both politicians and the military. It remains to be seen whether this fear will henceforth shape relations between the military and civilians.

Now, opposing direct elections may on one hand stave off the risk of the country's Argentinization, but on the other, it does not solve the fundamental problem of the presidential succession. This problem is very simple. The candidates who appear to have support from the majority of PDS [Social Democratic Party] convention delegates do not have popular support. They do not even have the support of those who backed the military in 1964, that is, the businessmen, international creditors, urban middle class, and the now important sectors of the military and the federal bureaucracy.

In other words, opposing direct elections will not keep the country from falling into the hands of politicians of unethical behavior who are committed to the disastrous economic and social model. Opposing direct elections may reassure the military, but not the nation. The present challenge to the military is this: How, by opposing direct elections, can one keep the presidency from being captured by presidential hopefuls who do not recognize minimum ethical values? These values are dear both to the military and to civilians.

STUDENTS PLAN DIRECT ELECTIONS DEMONSTRATIONS

PY201448 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 19 Feb 84 p 7

[By Renato Faleiros]

[Excerpt] Large demonstrations in support of direct elections were held while the students were on vacation and the universities were empty. From now on the scene will be different. With the return to classes, the National Union of Students (UNE) is preparing large demonstrations on the campuses and on the streets. The most important event will be the "burial" of the Electoral College in all states on 28 March, and a general paralyzation of classes the day the National Congress votes on the pro-direct elections amendment, probably in April.

The students are willing to maintain the inflamed campaign, according to UNE President Acildon de Matos Pae, a 24-year-old from Sao Paulo who is an architecture student of the Catholic University of Campinhas. He does not agree with the idea that pressure for direct elections should exclusively be exerted on the deputies and senators who are going to vote on the Dante de Oliveria amendment. He also accused "opposition sectors" of trying to take control of the popular demonstrations.

The UNE president said: "Some state governors, like the Sao Paulo governor, believe that the public rallies have already fulfilled their role. The students believe that the street demonstrations must continue." In order for the universities to carry out these demonstrations, the UNE Council of Ruling Bodies (made up over 80 students executive boards and the State Students Union (UEE)) in a recent meeting in Rio de Janeiro prepared an extensive program of student marches, public actions, writing on walls, and debates.

Acildon de Matos said: "The demonstrations held so far cannot be considered sufficient because, although very important, they are not enough to guarantee the victory of the Dante de Oliveira amendment in the National Congress."

The UNE president also criticized the lack of a coordinating committee capable of unifying the campaign for direct elections in the entire country. Currently, only the Workers Party is insisting on the creation of such a committee at the national level, while the other parties have not yet discussed the matter. Therefore, a number of ideas under consideration -- a march to Brasilia, a demonstration in front of Congress, a student march in Sao Paulo, and simultaneous demonstrations in the capitals on the day of the voting of the pro-direct elections amendment -- can become, according to the students, isolated demonstrations without command.

Universities Warned on Politics

PY210238 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Brasilia -- Today Education and Culture Minister Ester Ferraz, commenting on the intention of teachers and students to campaign in favor of direct elections, warned that the universities cannot be turned into battlefields to defend direct elections for president of the republic and that the university sectors must observe common sense to prevent classrooms from being used for activities other than teaching. According to the minister, this is not a subject banned from the schools, but it must be handled in a scientific way during classes related to the subject, such as sociology or political science.

SPECIAL PAPAL ENVOY ARRIVES IN SANTIAGO

PY181300 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] A special envoy from Pope John Paul II arrived in Santiago last night. He is Msgr Claudio Celli. Upon his arrival at Pudahuel Airport he said he had instructions from the holy father to deal with the problem created by the entry of four terrorists into the Apostolic Nunciature. Msgr Celli added that he expected to find a viable, honorable, and effective solution to the problem. He explained that Pope John Paul II wanted him to come to Santiago to also personally express his sympathy and affection for the Chilean people. Msgr Celli, who is a private adviser to the holy father, met Nuncio Monsignor Angelo Sodano last night.

To Discuss Nunciature 'Refugees'

PY210016 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Msgr Claudio Celli, the papal envoy who has come to Chile to look into the case of the four refugees staying at the nunciature, has said that a solution to this case depends on the Chilean Government. He noted that this solution should be honorable and valid for everyone. He made this statement after presenting his credentials to Acting Foreign Ministry Director Jorge Vega. Asked whether the Vatican still wants safe-conducts issued to the refugees, Msgr Celli said yes.

[Begin recording] [Celli] I believe a solution can be found.

[Unidentified reporter] Is the Vatican still requesting that safe-conducts be issued?

[Celli] Of course.

[Reporter] Could the expulsion of the refugees be a solution?

[Celli] We shall see. This will depend on the Chilean Government. [end recording]

Msgr Celli added that he had come to Chile as an adviser to the Vatican diplomatic mission to assist the papal nuncio, Msgr Angelo Sodano, in finding a solution to the case of the four extremists who have been staying at the nunciature.

[Begin recording] [Celli] Look, I want to tell you this: As I said earlier, it is up to the Chilean Government to find a solution to this case. For our part, we have to mention the desire expressed by the holy father.

[Reporter] In your opinion, what solution would please his holiness the most?

[Celli] I believe that his holiness has requested that safe-conducts be issued. This is the traditional solution given to this type of situation.

[Reporter] Is your presence here designed to exert pressure on the Chilean Government to expedite a solution to this problem?

[Celli] I believe the Holy See does not want to pressure anyone. I believe it would not be correct to use this word. What the Holy See wants is that this case be solved in an honorable, just fashion as soon as possible for the good of everyone, as I said the day before yesterday. As you can see, the position of the nunciature is undoubtedly very uncomfortable since it cannot perform its duties, the functions entrusted to it by the holy father, calmly, because of this truly difficult situation. [end recording]

Msgr Celli said he will stay in Chile as long as necessary, until a solution is found to this problem. He also said that the Holy See hopes the case of the four refugees at the nunciature will not undermine the traditional good relations between the Vatican and the Chilean Government.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Humberto Julio has described the arrival in Chile of the new adviser of the Apostolic Nunciature as a matter of the exclusive concern of the Vatican. Julio compared Msgr Celli's arrival to that of new Chilean officials accredited in its overseas missions. He declined to comment on Msgr Celli's presence in Chile because he said this would force him to give his opinion every time a new foreign mission official is accredited in Chile. Julio added that the Chilean Government has formally answered every formal note sent by the Vatican concerning the latter's request for safe-conducts. Julio said that thus far the decision is not to grant the safe-conducts but that, like any other decision, this one can also be changed.

'EXTREMISTS' IN NUNCIATURE KILLED INTENDANT

PY202148 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 10 Feb 84 p 5

[Text] The four extremists who sought refuge in the Apostolic Nunciature at dawn on 16 January did so because they had lost all support and protection from the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR] Central Committee and they were considered a "threat" to the security of the other members of the subversive underground organization. This information was leaked by high-ranking police circles in the past few hours. It was pointed out that "this is one of the reasons they entered the residence of Nuncio Sodano heavily armed with the two submachine guns used to murder General Urzua and his two bodyguards."

According to the ballistics report issued by the civilian police criminal department, it has been established that the two weapons that were fired on 30 August 1983 on the corner of Avenue Apoquindo and La Cordillera, in Las Condes neighborhood, at the Datsun car in which Gen Carol Urzua and his two bodyguards, Carlos Riveros and Jose Aguayo, were travelling, and which were carried by the "guest" extremists of the nunciature, are 9-mm parabellum SHE Mod P-25 submachine guns, made in Czechoslovakia.

The criminal attack against Carol Urzua -- who at that time was intendant of Santiago -- and his two bodyguards, was part of a MIR plan. However, security forces, since 7 September, have carried out several raids that have ended in clashes in which five terrorists have been killed in houses located on Fuenteovejuna Street, in Las Condes neighborhood, and on Janequeo Street, in Quinta Normal. Therefore, the commando was broken up.

Shortly after this underground and subversive organization sustained this hard blow, the MIR decided to "isolate" the group in order to "protect" the rest of its members spread out in various cells. The four terrorists were considered "highly dangerous" and were denied shelter in the many safe-houses that the terrorist organization maintains throughout the country.

When the four survivors of the commando in charge of murdering Gen Urzua realized that they did not have a place to take refuge and had been abandoned by their comrades they sought refuge in the nunciature with the help of yet unidentified persons. Their first intention was to "occupy" the nunciature. However, the nuncio managed to talk them into handing over their weapons. These were the same weapons they must have kept during the 4 months following the group's breakup because of the possibility of new confrontations. Therefore, they did not expect the ballistics report to clearly show that they were members of the extremist commando that murdered Gen Urzua and his bodyguards.

BORDER OPERATION WITH VENEZUELA BEGINS

PA182317 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Cucuta, Colombia -- Today joint Colombian and Venezuelan forces initiated a Bolivarian plan against guerrillas and narcotics traffic gangs operating along the two countries' common border. An authorized Colombian Government spokesman revealed to "Supernews" today at noon that the vigorous offensive which was today initiated against the subversives and narcotics traffic gangs along the common border is part of the strategy outlined in Caracas by General Gustavo Matamora D'Costa, the Colombian defense minister, and General Humberto Alcalde Alvarez, the Venezuelan defense minister, at mideweek.

The deployment of troops to fight the guerrillas and narcotics traffickers on the Colombian-Venezuelan border began at 0600 Friday, the government source concluded.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER NAMED; BETANCUR COMMENTS

PA171925 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Bogota -- President Belisario Betancur yesterday appointed Nohemi Sanin Posada as the new communications minister, replacing Bernardo Ramirez, who resigned on 16 January. The decision was announced at 1130, a few minutes before the new minister assumed office. Former Minister Ramirez announced that he will resume his private activities.

At the inauguration ceremony for the new communications minister, Betancur announced that television programs are being revised, but added that the government is not interested in controlling television. He pointed out that state ownership of television channels will be justified when INRAVISION [National Institute of Radio and Television], as the result of a national decision, begins operations, run not by the government or privileged individuals, but by an organization representing the public.

Betancur also discussed the need to use television as a vehicle for culture. He asked Colombian newsmen to cooperate in stabilizing the country, instead of using television newscasts to defend proselitisms or individual causes.

[Begin Betancur recording] Colombia enjoys reasonable progress in visual aids in general, although we suffer faults and excesses, such as an abundance of radio stations that do not always serve the general public's interests. Radio stations will operate through public bids and for specific cultural and social needs from now on.

Let's not blame the state ownership system, because this system will be justified when INRAVISION, as the result of a national decision, begins operation, not by the government or privileged individuals, but by an organization representing the community. This government is not interested in controlling television. For this reason, bids are proposed that establish general procedures. We have to choose from what is proposed. This constitutes a limitation that we are trying to remove. We welcome criticism and fearlessly correct what we can. There will not be any INRAVISION programs devoted to government propaganda, but topics of national interest will be presented in an objective, professional manner.

I hereby make a respectful appeal to Colombian journalists, who are so meritorious and generous. We still have a long way to go to stabilize our country, to plot a sure course toward its destination. Journalists know this and cooperate in this task in a climate of freedom that makes us proud. [end recording]

FOREIGN MINISTER ON SAN ANDRES ISLAND CONTROL

PA181839 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Feb 84 pp 1-A, 8-A

[From the "Political Activities" column by Guillermo Perez]

[Text] Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo stated on the television program "Prime Time" that it is necessary to exercise greater control over foreigners visiting San Andres and Providencia.

Lloreda rejected the idea of a foreign power being interested in provoking friction between Colombia and Nicaragua, but noted that it would be convenient to limit the arrival of foreigners at the archipelago, which has been claimed by the Sandinist government.

The foreign minister defended Colombia's right to the island, and said that if necessary, he will point out these rights to the Managua Government. The minister said that San Andres is a Colombian window to the Caribbean, and that it should become a cultural and educational center. Lloreda Caicedo said that laws will have to be drafted to defend the archipelago and avoid an invasion by foreigners who arrive there in search of opportunities.

PEACE COMMISSION-GUERRILLA MEETING SCHEDULED

PA202159 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Bogota -- Members of the Peace Commission have told CARACOL that a meeting between that commission and the leaders of several guerrilla groups, including the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and the M-19 [19 April Movement], will be held next week at a place and on a date that shall remain secret, though they have already been determined. The public will be informed about the meeting only after it has been held and no journalists will be allowed to attend, a Peace Commission member told this station.

At last Wednesday's session, [Peace Commission President] John Agudelo Rios told the commission members that negotiations will be held in the next few weeks, and he declared that a final agreement will be announced to the country before the midterm elections, according to socialist Senator Gerardo Ayerbe Chaux y Molina. Although we were told nothing definite, the understanding was that a meeting would be held next week. We were also warned that the meeting in question might be either delayed or advanced, Ayerbe Chaux y Molina explained, adding that although everything is ready for the meeting, we don't know where or when it will be held.

BRIEFS

NO NATIONALIZATION OF BANKS -- President Belisario Betancur has discarded the possibility of nationalizing the country's banks. He said that a nationalization could take place only in the event of an extreme emergency. The president made this statement after swearing in the new bank superintendent, German Tavares Cardona. [Summary] [Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 84 PA]

ILLUECA INSTALLS CABINET, TALKS TO NEWSMEN

PA181318 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] The new cabinet ministers and the managers and directors of government agencies who have joined the government team of President Jorge Illueca today assumed office in the Yellow Room of the Palace of the Herons, the seat of the executive branch.

During the ceremony, Government and Justice Minister Carlos Ozores assumed office as acting vice president of the republic until the Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives appoints a vice president.

The following cabinet ministers assumed office according to Executive Decree No 57: Ricaurte Vasquez, finance and treasury minister; Tomas Guerra, public works minister; Carlos Julio Quijano, commerce and industries minister; Alberto Calvo, health minister; Zia Elena Lee, housing minister; Hector Alexander, planning and economic policy minister; and Gustavo Gonzalez, presidency minister.

Others who assumed office during the ceremony were: Oscar Vargas, as presidency deputy minister; Luis Alberto Arias, as manager of the Banco Nacional de Panama; Jaime Anguizola, as manager of the Agricultural Development Bank; Petra Bendiburg, as director of the IFARHU [Human Resources Education and Training Institute]; Alfredo Aleman, Jr. as director of the IPAT [Panamanian Institute of Tourism]; and Nander Pitty Velasquez, as director of the National Port Authority.

Following the ceremony, President Jorge Illueca held a working meeting behind closed doors with his government team.

Illueca made the following comments to the press moments after installing his government team.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Have you learned about the first demonstration that has been organized against you, by Mayin Correa? [laughter]

[Illueca] This is a good example of the great respect for public freedom here. We will gladly keep track of the public's reaction at all times.

[Reporter] What about comments this morning that it is irresponsible of you not to choose just one of the two posts you currently hold -- those of president of Panama and chairman of the 38th UN General Assembly? What can you tell us about this?

[Illueca] It is precisely because of my great sense of responsibility that I am keeping the two posts. I thought this matter would be interpreted differently by the Panamanian people, because this is an historic matter that must not be taken as a personal one. Under these circumstances, the fact that the president of Panama is chairman of the UN General Assembly is a great honor and a privilege for our country, which was the site of the Amphyctionic Congress [held in Panama City in 1821], a forerunner of the United Nations.

[Reporter] Will you continue with the Economic Council and the financial ministers on the cabinet? And considering the speech regarding the various results of the commission [words indistinct] President De la Espriella to cope with certain national problems?

[Illueca] Definitely, I am one of those who believes that there must be continuity in the government, in government programs, in government work. I will not pursue the absurd policy of some politicians who think that what their predecessors have done is no good. On the contrary, I think that we must rely on all efforts that are being made to develop this country. All current projects will continue and all currently operating institutions will continue operating. As a matter of fact, I am meeting with the cabinet here to say it is extremely important that, during the exercise of their duties, the cabinet ministers and directors of government agencies not think that we are now beginning an era of mass dismissals or anything that may affect the stability of public servants, who have as many labor rights as any other man and woman engaged in any economic activity.

[Reporter] Mr President, [words indistinct] for Colombia. Can you give us any report on the sudden change in government?

[Illueca] The report about... [changes thought] there has been no change in government, but rather a presidential succession here. We Panamanians have a sense of responsibility. We know constitutional precepts very well, and all of our activities fall within the framework of the country's Constitution and laws. Therefore, I wish to tell Colombia, a country we love so much, that it must understand that we Panamanians are a responsible people with a great conscience regarding our destiny, who will continue struggling in order for that destiny to become better every day, just as the Colombians do. [end recording]

ILLUECA RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT ALFONSIN

PA190355 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 17 Feb 84

["Text" of letter sent by Argentine President Raul R. Alfonsin to Panamanian President Jorge Illueca -- date not given]

[Text] Your Excellency, the President of Panama, Dr Jorge E. Illueca Sibauste:

Upon your assumption of the presidency of your fraternal country, I convey to you my most cordial wishes for your success and personal happiness and at the same time express my best wishes that we will continue to work together for Latin American unity.

Raul Alfonsin

President of Argentina

ARIAS ACCEPTS OPPOSITION PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION

PA201731 Panama City Radio Exitosa Network in Spanish 1816 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Speech by Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid, president of the Authentic Panamenist Party, on formally accepting his nomination as presidential candidate of an opposition party coalition, in Anton, Panama -- live]

[Excerpts] Thank you, thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen, for the warm reception you have extended to me. You have come not only from the four points of the compass, but from the entire world.

Many reporters from various newspapers all over the world are also here. The firm confirmation of our collective will to free the Republic from the regime of oppression and corruption to which it has been subjected by a small group of Panamanians since 1968. [sentence as heard] I am reading this speech, instead of making it extemporaneously, because I want it to remain [as a record]. Remember that it is not just for Panamanians, but also for people abroad, and one must not put one's hand, one must not put either one's hand or one's foot in one's mouth. [applause]

Today, there have been many rumors by those who want honest elections... [corrects himself] those who do not want honest elections, about my relations with President Ricardo de la Espriella. This is interesting, because you can see the evil propaganda that is sometimes used against good men.

I publicly express my respect for and public recognition of President de la Espriella for having fought to the end to keep his pledge. Let it be known that we are meeting here, not only because of our willingness to comply with our sacred duty to vote but also because of the decision, after 16 years of political ostracism, to defend, by all means and at all costs, the certain electoral triumph of the great national masses who will go to the polls in May, along with the parties that accompany them. [applause, shouts from crowd]

I accept the nomination by those attending this convention as the candidate of the national majority to the presidency of the republic, fully aware of the historic responsibility this act implies. It is a challenge that I accept with love for our country and with my unquestionable willingness to work for our country and with my unquestionable willingness to work for the well-being of my compatriots and friends. This will be a realization of my desire to be the first humble servant of the Panamanian homeland. Remember that you will be government employees during my administration, not chieftains or policemen, but servants of the state. [applause]

In the past 16 years the country's future has been trifled with. We have seen the crumbling of democratic institutions. The economic present and the future of all Panamaians have been mortgaged. Consequently, there has been a lessening of the country's ability to meet the most elementary and pressing requirements of the common citizen and of the community as a whole. Today our people are working only to pay high tariffs for electricity and water and to pay exorbitant taxes. The price of staples here is sky-high.

It can be said that thanks to the wastefulness and looting of the national coffers by the present rulers, the Panamanian people today pay more taxes and eat less, a tragic situation that is noted most dramatically among the aged and the children, all of whom are undernourished. [as heard] [shouts of: "We want work!"]

There has been a lack of administrative foresight, honesty, and probity. Hence, we have fallen into the quicksand of astronomic debts, becoming the servants and slaves of large financial centers. The people must be allowed to participate in development plans, which must not be imposed on them without consideration of their real needs. The Panamanian people must be the builders of their own political, economic, and cultural destiny. Do not remember this. [sentence as heard] [applause, shouting]

We must draft a model of development that is different from the one we have been following. Let us get away from pure, passive inertia and the large loans that bring no benefit to the nation. Let us design an active policy of development and dependence... [corrects himself] of not depending on anyone, but on oneself.

Let us at all costs avoid the formation of a strong, omnipotent, arrogant state which, while shoring itself up with great power, in the end suppresses the citizen and considers him a mere object at its service, not a person but a slave, which is our present situation.

Let us make the middle class strong and dynamic, but not at the expense of the popular classes. Let us always seek harmony, and especially justice, between the worker and the businessman.

Let us support the small-and middle-level producer. Let us give incentives to the small and middle-level businessman. Let us protect the consumers, who are the people. However, let us tell the people that only work gives them dignity and allows them to progress with justice.

Let us study taxes in order to alleviate the burden that weighs upon the shoulders of vast sectors of the nation. It is necessary to eliminate the 5 percent sales tax; there is no justification for it. [applause] Let us return to the worker the 13th month wages, which were stolen from him. [applause] Let us give the government employee dignity by means of a scientific civil service system, and, finally, let us remove the violent, enslaving Castro-communist threat from our shores. [applause]

Today we have begun the march of national reconstruction. Let us move onward to triumph with faith and courage.

REGISTRATION OF AUTHENTIC LIBERAL PARTY APPROVED

PA190356 Panama City YA in Spanish 17 Feb 84 pp 1, 12

[By Lisette Carrasco]

[Text] Electoral Tribunal President Cesar Quintero has reported that the Tribunal has ruled in favor of the registration of the Authentic Liberal Party.

Quintero said that the Tribunal's delay in reaching a decision was due primarily to the dilatory appeals filed by Roderick Esquivel's Liberals.

Knowledgeable sources said that even though the ruling of the Electoral Tribunal is favorable, the Authentic Liberal Party will not be able to register before 29 February, when the deadline for nominations will expire, because it needs at least 30 days to meet all of the registration requirements.

POLITICAL GROUP REQUESTS OFFICIAL PARTY STATUS

PA182013 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Feb 84 p 1

[By J. Quintero de Leon]

[Excerpt] At 1430 yesterday, Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra and Alvin Weeden G., president and secretary general, respectively, of the Social Democratic Party, presented the documents required to request authorization to register their political group. The documents were presented to Dr Cesar A. Quintero, in the Agreement Room of the Electoral Tribunal, over which Dr Quintero presides. De la Lastra said: "Our organization appeared in 1972 when a group of Panamanians combined efforts to make the Panamanian people aware of the country's need to return to a democratic system and a de jure state.

BELIZE

GRENADIAN ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE POLICY DENIED

FL180245 St George's Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] A Belizian official said today Grenada's ultra left-wing government made no attempt to influence Belize's foreign policy. The Belizian foreign ministry official was reacting to a newspaper report from Washington which said that the former Grenadian Government had received proposals from the Soviet Union to attempt to exert influence on Caribbean authorities.

The newspaper report was based on the contents of documents released in Washington, which United States officials said had been seized during last October's intervention here by U.S. and Caribbean force.

The Belizian official said his country would have rebuffed any attempt by Grenada's former left-wing government to influence the foreign policy of Belize. He said Belize foreign policy is formulated in Belize and is well established as being non-aligned in nature.

COSTA RICA

FOREIGN MINISTER ON KISSINGER REPORT, C.A. PEACE

PA192015 Paris AFP in Spanish 0034 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Excerpts] San Jose, 17 Feb (AFP) -- The draft bill President Ronald Reagan today sent to Congress containing the Kissinger report's recommendations on Central America "may be the basis for regional development in coming years," Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez said today.

During a press conference, Gutierrez expressed his regret upon learning of the resignation of Richard Stone, U.S. roving ambassador for Central America, whom Gutierrez said "was clearly aware that democracy in Central America is essential for the region's pacification." Gutierrez credited Stone's efforts with the Reagan administration's demand for democratization, which had not existed in former U.S. Administrations, and which was specified in the "initiative for the democratization, pacification, and development of Central America" that the Kissinger report seeks to carry out.

On another topic, Gutierrez referred to the postponement of the tour which the four foreign ministers of the Contadora Group countries (Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, and Colombia) had planned to make beginning 26 February. The foreign minister said that apparently the foreign ministers thought that it was not advisable to meet with their Central American counterparts without having first done so with the new Venezuelan president. Accordingly, the four will meet on 29 February in Panama.

Gutierrez also announced that Colombian and Costa Rican Government representatives will meet in Cartagena on 24 and 25 February to define the bases for the delimitation of the maritime boundaries in the Pacific [word indistinct] so that in March the appropriate protocol may [words indistinct]. He recalled that in late January considerable progress was achieved in the talks with the Colombian delegation that visited this capital to define the maritime limits.

JAMAICAN PRIME MINISTER SEAGA CONTINUES VISIT

Communique Issued

PA190423 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga and Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge have expressed concern over the increasingly acute tensions in Central America. In a joint communique signed tonight, the two leaders warned that if consequences are to be prevented, it is necessary to resolve the tensions in the region, the results of which affect not only the countries that are directly involved but the entire hemsiphere.

The problems that afflict Central America will only be solved with the establishment of true democracy and the enactment of the peaceful procedures established in the UN Charter, the OAS Charter, and international law, they said in their joint communique.

The need to guarantee absolute respect for human rights in the region and the conviction that a democratic and pluralist system is the only form of government that can guarantee the effective exercise of freedom and social justice was expressed to President Monge by Prime Minister Seaga. Both leaders declared their determination to strengthen this kind of system and to support its institutionalization on the continent. This is why the Costa Rican Government supports the international festival of democratic youth that will be held in Jamaica in April 1985.

Monge and Seaga reaffirmed their belief in the efficacy of dialogue in preventing controversies, decreasing tensions, and finding solutions that, together with the participation of interested countries, can lead to detente and to the strengthening of peace and democracy.

Seaga recognized that Costa Rica's perpetual, unarmed neutrality is directed at the preservation of peace in international relations. With this proclamation, Costa Rica reaffirms its rejection of forceful solutions and its faith in the importance of the instruments of international law. The two leaders reaffirmed their support for the Contadora Group's efforts and expressed the hope that its negotiations will soon be crowned with success, ensuring lasting peace in Central America. In this respect, they advocated the need to accelerate the process of securing peace and detente.

An agricultural assistance program will be implemented whereby Costa Rica will help Jamaica to establish a system of disease prevention and effective guarantine measures for controlling coffee rust. Costa Rica will place material, products, and technical assistance at Jamaica's disposal for the development of palmetto plantations in Jamaica, and will also provide macadamia seeds to Jamaica.

It was agreed that an exchange of technical information will be established and that Jamaica will assist Costa Rica in the rehabilitation of its cacao industry. Jamaican technicians will come to Costa Rica for training in coffee processing and procedures.

Seaga will return to Jamaica tomorrow after a 4-day visit, having expressed satisfaction with the attention he has received from the people and Government of Costa Rica. Seaga invited Monge to visit Jamaica on a date to be determined. His visit was described by Seaga as very productive and beneficial for both countries in that joint efforts are being made to solve problems that affect both.

Seaga and Monge are now meeting at the Cariari Hotel, where the former is hosting a dinner for the Costa Rican president.

Although Cuban interference in the Caribbean is decreasing because of recent events, such as the elections held in Jamaica and the military intervention in Grenada, the Havana-Managua axis is still a threat to Central America, Prime Minister Seaga said. It is obvious that the Havana-Managua axis exists and that the danger that it will expand its actions constitutes a threat to Central America in general, Seaga said.

He declared that events in Central America affect the Caribbean countries, while events in the Caribbean also have repercussions in Central America. When the prime minister was asked whether he believed that the Havana-Managua axis could expand to the point of provoking military intervention in Nicaragua, he said: We do not believe in intervention, because it is illegal when it occurs without the consent of the people.

On the military intervention in Grenada, he said that the circumstances were different, because clear evidence existed that something dangerous and very advanced was happening that threatened the Caribbean countries. Surveys reveal that more than 90 percent of the people of Grenada supported the military intervention and that they do not seem very anxious now to take control of the government, despite which the date for elections in Grenada is being held firm, Seaga noted.

On Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme's statement in Costa Rica to the effect that Soviet intervention in Central America is minimal, Seaga emphatically rejected this idea. Seaga said that those who live close to the fire feel the heat, while those who live far away do not. With this statement he explained the Swedish leader's lack of information on the reality of Central America and the Caribbean.

Seaga said that the so-called revolutionary parties represent a danger to the democratic countries because they do not really seek democracy. They all call themselves democratic, but they do not permit the development of a parliamentary and representative democracy in that the people are permitted to elect their representatives only at the lowest levels, Seaga said.

Holds Press Conference

FL201427 Bridgetown CANA in English 0918 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, Feb 20 (CANA-REUTER) -- Jamaican Prime Minister Edward Seaga signed a communique with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge yesterday supporting dialogue as means of solving strife in Central America.

Seaga, who arrived in San Jose on Wedndsday for a four-day visit to Costa Rica, told reporters he thought U.S. intervention in Grenada had helped to reduce the threat of Soviet influence in the region. Howver, he said in a press conference before departing from Costa Rica, "the Havana-Managua axis persists and continues to be a threat as Cuba continues to export its revolution."

He said he disagreed with Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, who told reporters during a recent visit to Nicaragua he thought Soviet influence was minimal. "Those who live close to the fire feel the heat," Seaga said. "Those who live far away don't feel it."

Seaga signed an accord with the Costa Rican leader before departing, promising joint economic and cultural cooperation and calling for respect for human rights and democracy in the region. In the document the two leaders also called for the use of negotiations as a means of resolving regional conflicts.

EL SALVADOR

MAGANA, REBELS REACT TO STONE'S RESIGNATION

Magana Praises Peace Efforts

PA192141 Paris AFP in Spanish 2057 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Feb (AFP) -- Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana today praised the efforts made by Richard Stone, former roving U.S. ambassador, "in an attempt to find peace in El Salvador." He added, however, that in the last few months, Stone's work had not been limited to El Salvador, but had included the Contadora Group's efforts to find an overall solution to the region's problems. Stone's resignation and the appointment of veteran ambassador Harry Schlaudemann did not prompt any significant reaction among nonpolitical official circles in El Salvador.

Asked today about Stone's resignation, President Magana limited himself to saying that as far as he knew it was caused by personal differences with another official, although there might have been other reasons. In any event, he noted that Stone had made several visits to this country and had organized a meeting between the government's Peace Commission and the FMLN-FDR. The contacts between the guerrillas and the Peace Commission proved futile in that no agreement was reached, even on the initiation of negotiations, because while the Salvadoran regime is insisting on linking any dialogue to the rebels' participation in elections the FMLN-FDR believes that the necessary conditions for elections do not exist and that the elections that are scheduled for March are "a farce."

At the moment, the Salvadoran Government's Peace Commission has become virtually nonexistent since Francisco Quinones, its coordinator, resigned to become the presidential candidate for the minority right-wing Salvadoran Popular Party. The other two Peace Commission members, Bishop Marco Rene Revelo and Guillermo Trabanino, were thus left awaiting the appointment of a new coordinator. Meanwhile, Rene Fortin, Democratic Action presidential candidate, has told AFP that he will travel to Washington this week to discuss the Salvadoran situation with FDR leader Guillermo Ungo and to try to find "a dignified solution to end the bloodshed," in his own words.

Venceremos: Differences With Motley

PA190252 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Richard Stone, Yankee superambassador for Central America, has resigned, primarily because of serious differences with Langhorne Motley, U.S. secretary of state for Latin American affairs. It has been reported that Motley was never happy with Stone's appointment because he feared that Stone would overshadow him in Reagan's administration. Both Motley and Stone, however, agree on the need to use brute force to solve the Central American conflicts; thus, their differences are purely personal.

Venceremos: Mission 'Insignificant'

PA190348 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Richard Stone's efforts as Reagan's special envoy to seek a negotiated solution to the Central American conflict have been described by the FMLN-FDR Political-Diplomatic Commission as insignificant.

In a press release, the commission stresses that Stone's mission was not really to secure peace but to reduce opposition in the U.S. Congress and among the American people to Reagan's policy on Central America. The press release adds that Stone's resignation is just one more act in the commedy of errors that the Reagan administration has played in Central America.

COPREFA NOTES MOSCOW SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE

PA210356 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, in San Salvador; date not given]

[Text] Moscow has decided to increase its aid to the FMLN. A recent press release on the creation early this month of the so-called Political Solidarity Committee With the Peoples of Latin American in Moscow confirms Soviet intervention in El Salvador and Nicaragua. The committee has announced that it will operate primarily in these two countries.

The committee announced in Moscow that it will give moral, economic, and material support to all peoples of the hemisphere, but particularly to Nicaragua and El Salvador. With the creation of this committee, its sponsors wish to restore the image of the FMLN, which deteriorated some time ago despite the publicity and propaganda attempts to maintain it. Journalist and writer (Alexander Cherkowski), winner of the Lenin Prize awarded by the Soviet regime, has been appointed the president of the committee. However, El Salvador is united and prepared to repel this and any similar maneuver by the FMLN and its sponsors, because our people believe in peace and democracy.

28 SOLDIERS DIE IN CRASH OF 2 HELICOPTERS

PA191619 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1558 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- A total of 28 Salvadoran Army soldiers were killed when 2 military helicopters collided in the eastern part of the country this morning, official sources have reported. The Armed Forces Press Committee [COPREFA] reported that the two aircraft collided near the townships of San Gerardo and San Luis de la Reina, in the northern part of the eastern department of San Miguel.

COPREFA did not disclose the cause of the accident, but did say that all the occupants were killed, that is, 24 troops and 4 crewmen. The official report added that the collision of the two helicopters occurred during an operation in northern San Miguel planned by the Army General Staff.

FMLN Claims Downing

PA191944 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1830 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] On the eastern front, our weapons are defeating the plans of the puppet dictatorship. Our forces continue fighting and defeating the counterinsurgency tactics designed by the Yankees. Yesterday, 18 February [as heard]; our antiaircraft artillery fire brought down two helicopters sent by the North American warmongers to the puppet dictatorship. At the same time that this was taking place, our forces from the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade engaged the troops of criminal Domingo Monterrosa in heavy fighting in the area of Nuevo Eden de San Juan.

COPREFA Reports Collision

PA202206 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Communique issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, in San Salvador on 19 February]

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces wish to report that at 0730 today, during the development of an operation that was duly planned by the Armed Forces General Staff, two Salvadoran Air Force helicopters accidentally collided in the area of San Gerardo and San Luis de la Reina, San Miguel Department. All of the occupants were killed. The 4 helicopter crewmembers and 24 soldiers who were being deployed to the area of operation were killed in the collision.

Venceremos Alleges Army 'Blunder'

PA200406 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Attention, your attention for these last-minute reports received by Radio Venceremos from the area of the disastrous operation that was led personally by Domingo Monterrosa in northern San Miguel. Our information expands on the blunder committed by Domingo Monterrosa on the morning of this victorious Sunday. The report states that at 0810, the dictatorship tried to land troops in an area between Nuevo Eden de San Juan and the town of San Gerardo. Using several helicopters, they were trying to transport paratroopers under the command of Major Turcios. Domingo Monterrosa's blunder led to a landing in an area where the FMLN controlled the high ground -- La Coyota hill and Hacienda El Amatillo -- between Nuevo Eden de San Juan and San Gerardo.

Domingo Monterrosa's stupid maneuver was carried out, we repeat, in an area where our revolutionary forces controlled the high ground and where we had placed U.S. made M-60 machineguns. At the moment that the air-transported troops were landing, our guerrilla units opened fire with the U.S. made M-60 machineguns, which had been recovered from the same puppet army.

We have already reported that we inflicted 32 casualties during Monterrosa's clumsy maneuver. This last-minute report states that five pilots were killed in this action, which has been a disaster for the dictatorship.

The names of the pilots who were killed in this action are Lieutenant Bernardo Ernesto Carcamo Pardo, Lieutenant Alejandro Zuniga Mendez, Sub-Lieutenant Roberto Cuellar Aguilar, Sub-Lieutenant Jaime Godofredo Galdamez Arias, and Sub-Lieutenant Herzon Calixto Flores. These are the five pilots who were killed. In all, 32 of the dictatorship's troops were killed in this disastrous operation led by El Mozote's executioner, Domingo Monterrosa.

Thus, in this area in northern San Miguel, six pilots have now been killed in FMLN actions against these Gringo operations. The first pilot was killed by our anti-aircraft fire near Ciudad Barrios. Today, five more have been killed, in a hard blow to the dictatorship's genocidal air force.

MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN VARIOUS AREAS REPORTED

Guazapa Hill Area Bombed

PA170440 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] San Salvador -- In Guazapa, A-37 planes bombed areas of Guazapa Hill and presumed positions of the leftist guerrillas near the town of San Jose Guayabal and along the road from San Martin to the province of Suchitoto, 50 km northeast of San Salvador. The bombing lasted approximately 15 minutes, according to military reports.

COPREFA Reports Actions

PA170438 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Communique issued by the Press Committee of the Armed Forces, COPREFA, on 16 February]

[Text] Two terrorists were killed and several wounded yesterday morning when forces of the 16 September Battalion clashed with extremists in the town of San Ildefonso, San Vicente Department. In the ensuing action, one member of the ballalion was wounded.

Meanwhile, personnel of the Mildet 5 captured one terrorist in La Labor canton, San Sebastian jurisdiction, in San Vicente Department, seized an FAL rifle, three 7.62-mm cartridges, subversive propaganda, and other war materiel.

Four FMLN extremists were killed and a large number wounded when FMLN forces attacked Villa Dolores, Cabanas Department, at dawn yesterday. The fighting lasted into the early hours of the afternoon,

The Armed Forces reacted promptly to protect the residents from the terrorists' intentions to occupy the town and prevented them from gaining their objective. One 13-year-old child traveling with the FMLN groups was rescued by the troops from the terrorists who were using him for various activities. The child was carrying a rifle. In the ensuing clash, 4 soldiers were killed and 12 wounded.

FMLN Reports Clashes

PA171903 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Troops of the FMLN's Rafael Aguinada Carranza Battalion on 15 February at 0500 attacked enemy positions in the canton and hamlet of (Los Hernandez), Ilobasco jurisdiction, Cabanas Department. As a result of these clashes the enemy suffered three dead, and three enemy soldiers were taken prisoner. After occupying the enemy positions, our forces recovered from the dictatorship 3 G-3 rifles, 1,500, 7.62mm cartridges, several grenades for G-3 rifles, as well as other military equipment.

While these clashes in (Los Hernandez) canton took place, the enemy sent reinforcements from Cojutepeque. The enemy forces clashed with one of our contingents in the vicinity of the recently destroyed (El Atachin) electric substation, on the highway leading from San Rafael Cedros to Ilobasco. In these clashes our forces inflicted several casualties on the enemy.

The dictatorship's reinforcements, having been beaten, were forced to withdraw hastily. The FMLN forces later withdrew without incident. This information was sent from the Anastasio Aquino Paracentral Front by Commander Camilo.

Other reports from the same front state that on Thursday, 5 February, at 0500, a squad of revolutionary militias led by Companero Napo occupied the town of Santa Clara in San Vicente Department, after which they carried out political meetings with the inhabitants of the area. At 0630 an enemy company of the (Canas) Battalion arrived, and strong clashes ensued lasting 30 minutes. The enemy suffered two wounded, and this forced them to request reinforcements; the entire (Canas) Battalion was then sent. A strong clash that lasted 1 and 1/2 hours ensued, and the enemy suffered a total of three casualties. These were the results of the clashes in Santa Clara, San Vicente Department. This report from the revolutionary militias was sent by Companero Jairo.

Clashes on Coastal Highway

PA172014 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] The Francisco Sanchez Southeastern Front in the San Agustin Tres Calles zone reports that on 16 February at 0500 our forces took control of a stretch of the Coastal Highway around the (Los Sijilotes) turnoff. At 1030 the enemy arrived in two vehicles. Our forces proceeded to machine gun and to totally destroy one of the vehicles, inflicting two dead and two wounded on the enemy.

The enemy was reinforced at 1100 by the Cazadores Battalion from Usulutan. These reinforcements clashed with our forces, and were forced to flee in total disarray toward the Jiquilisco turnoff. These actions lasted until 1200, when in another clash the enemy suffered an additional two dead and six wounded. The total number of casualties suffered by the demoralized dictatorship's troops in these clashes was four dead and eight wounded, and one military vehicle was seriously damaged. There was no traffic on the Coastal Highway during the morning of 16 February. This operation was directed by Commander Geronimo. The report was sent by Commander Roberto Jimenez.

Another military report from the same front says that on 16 February at 0500 FMLN forces also controlled the Coastal Highway on the stretch around the area of (Los Frailes). Control of this stretch of the Coastal Highway was maintained until 0800, and during this time roadblocks were set up. For 1 hour, a meeting was held with passers-by on the Coastal Highway, and the objectives of our struggle were outlined to the people. The people cooperated with our forces. The enemy did not come, and our forces withdrew without problems.

Clash Reported in Capital

PA171512 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1444 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] San Salvador, 17 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Local radio stations have reported that guerrilla forces and the Salvadoran Army have been engaged in a fierce clash since 0730 local time (1330 GMT) in a densely populated area located in the northern part of San Salvador. The clash is occurring mainly along Armed Forces Boulevard, the main access road to the capital from the northern suburbs. At least two civilians have been wounded in the fighting. The area includes six neighborhoods, a public transportation depot, and a wholesale market. Traffic along Armed Forces Boulevard has been halted.

Armed Forces and Air Force members -- the latter is headquartered on the boulevard -- are fiercely pursuing the attackers, whose number has not yet been ascertained. Colonel Nicolas Carranza, chief of the Treasury Police, whose headquarters are also located nearby, told ACAN-EFE by telephone that the clash started when "two or three people" attacked members of that security corps while they were participating in training exercises. Air Force helicopters are overflying the site.

Further on San Salvador Clash

PA180033 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Report by Nelson Lopez]

[Text] Radio Cadena Sonora listeners, we have contacted spokesmen for the Armed Forces who have confirmed that, indeed, early this morning, shortly before 0700, a squad presumed to be from the Clara Elizabeth Ramirez Metropolitan Front of the FPL [Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces] attacked the CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] substation in Agua Caliente, Soyapango.

According to reports, there were no casualties nor any significant property damage resulting from this attack. It was also reported that another group fired at security personnel guarding a bridge in the area next to the Amatepec neighborhood. However, this operation was unsuccessful, because Salvadoran Air Force troops arrived and counterattacked. According to the military sources, following this incident, which took place this morning and resulted in a heavy traffic jam along Armed Forces Boulevard, the attackers fled toward the Amatepec neighborhood in the direction of San Jacinto Hill.

It is not known at this moment if the attackers suffered any casualties; however, it was reported that the military forces sustained none. The soldiers involved were members of the Treasury Police and the Salvadoran Air Force. A helicopter flew over the area and attacked guerrillas who had already reached the area near the hill. The guerrillas were still firing back from the ground at around 0810 in the morning. The skirmish ended 10 minutes later, at 0820, according to the report that we have confirmed with Amatepec neighborhood residents and military spokesmen.

Army Ambushed on Coastal Highway

PA180124 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] We have received the following information from the Francisco Sanchez Southeastern Front in Usulutan Department. We are informed that today, 17 February, at 0500 the Commander Gonzalo Battalion of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade southern group ambushed and surrounded a Cazadores Battalion company from Usulutan on the Costal Highway near the San Agustin turn-off. We repeat, the Commander Gonzalo Battalion of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade southern group has a Cazadores Battalion comapny from Usulutan surrounded on the Coastal Highway near the San Agustin turn-off.

As of 1800 hours of 17 February the enemy reinforcements sent in to save the Cazadores company have been held back. We repeat, the enemy reinforcements are being held back. Preliminary reports received from the Francisco Sanchez Southern Front in Usulutan state that the enemy has suffered 10 dead and many wounded. This is a preliminary report. We repeat, we are informed that the enemy has suffered 10 dead and many wounded in Usulutan Department.

The forces of the dictatorship have tried to alleviate the critical situation faced by this Cazadores company by sending in air support; A-37 and [word indistinct] aircraft have been sent in to try to help the Cazadores company, but their support has been futile.

Attention, we are being informed at this moment that the Commander Gonzalo Battalion is preparing to tighten the cordon around the enemy troops of the Cazadores company from Usulutan. We repeat, we are being informed that the Commander Gonzalo Battalion of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade southern group is preparing to tighten the cordon around the enemy troops on the Coastal Highway near the San Agustin turnoff, where a Cazadores company has been surrounded by the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade. More reports from Usulutan state that despite the air support and reinforcements the situation of the enemy troops continues to be critical. The [word indistinct] reinforcements have been useless. This information was sent from the Francisco Sanchez Southeastern Front, San Agustin Tres Calles Zone, by Commander Roberto Jimenez.

Army Officer on Usulutan Actions

PA190151 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Report by Marco Aleman]

[Text] Clandestine radio broadcasts heard this morning in San Salvador report that there were heavy clashes yesterday between guerrilla and Army forces on the Coastal Highway, near the turnoff to the town of San Agustin in Usulutan Department. The clandestine stations said that the clashes began at 0500 and were still going on at 1200, and they reported unofficially that a Cazadores Battalion belonging to the 6th Infantry Brigade in Usulutan suffered at least 10 casualties. To get more information on these reports, we contacted Colonel Julio Cesar Yanez Lopez, commander of the 6th Infantry Brigade in Usulutan, who gave us the following information:

[Begin recording] [Yanez] There have been ambushes; they hide and launch surprise ambushes, but they have caused very little damage.

[Marco Aleman] Has the Army suffered any deaths, Colonel?

[Yanez] Yes, of course.

[Aleman] Do you have the figures?

[Yanez] Yes, four.

[Aleman] Four Army soldiers?

[Yanez] Yes, two from the Brigade and two from the Treasury Police.

[Aleman] Any wounded, Colonel?

[Yanez] Only one was wounded yesterday.

[Aleman] Did the guerrillas suffer casualties?

[Yanez] Certainly. However, their casualties cannot be determined, because they take them away. We can report our own, but we know that they also suffered casualties.

[Aleman] How long did the clash last, Colonel?

[Yanez] It lasted until sometime between 0900 and 1100.

[Aleman] Meanwhile, Colonel, what is the Army doing in that department, especially in terms of the "Well-Being for Usulutan" operation?

[Yanez] Well, we are currently working more intensely in the area of Jucuaran than in other sectors. We are trying to search and to clear the area, because there have been some more or less permanent camps there. This is no longer true, however, because there is nothing there now.

[Aleman] Generally speaking, how do you view the operation? Has it been a success?

[Yanez] Yes, I believe that it has been a success. Perhaps the results of the operation itself are not very clear at the moment, but it has had its consequences, and we can see that it has been effective. We are trying to secure well-being and peace, among other things, and we are doing this slowly, but we are more relaxed now than we were a few days ago.

[Aleman] Col Yanez Lopez, pardon my interruption, but how have the peasants viewed the arrival of the Salvadoran Army troops?

[Yanez] They have always been very aware of the Armed Forces' arrival in various areas, and their attitude is always positive; they prove this with their actions. They welcome us, and when asked, they always tell us about the limits under which they have lived and the neglect that they have suffered, for they are accustomed to legally established authority. I believe that, generally speaking, they accept our actions. I might add that they always demand more than they should. They would like to have a public security troop in every corner of the country in which people reside, which, of course, is not possible at the moment. Therefore, they may perhaps feel a need that is not being met, but they always treat us well, and are optimistic about the future of our operation and thankful for what we do for them, for the assistance we give them.

[Aleman] Colonel, according to reports on the operation that the Army has staged in southern Usulutan Department, the guerrillas are moving toward the northern part of the department. Will the operation be carried to those areas?

[Yanez] I cannot say anything about that, because my jurisdiction ends not far from here. The other commanders will determine if there is a need for another operation in another area. As for Usulutan, it would be logical, if those people move into this area, for us to continue the operation, but I cannot say whether the same thing will be done in other areas. [end recording]

FMLN Claims 10 Army Dead

PA190343 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] More failures for the CONARA's [National Commission for Reconstruction of Affected Areas] plan in Usulutan!

As we have already reported, at 0500 on Friday, the FMLN forces seized control of the Coastal Highway in the area of La Cruzadilla de San Juan. During this seizure of the Coastal Highway, our forces held a well-attended rally on this important route in Usulutan Department.

Clashes with the puppet army's forces began at 0930. Later, at 1500, the first enemy troops fled in disarray toward Tierra Blanca and the (Coyolito) Bridge. The Army later reinforced its positions with troops from the Cazadores Battalion, the Treasury Police, and a detachment from the Atlacatl Battalion.

In the afternoon, our units kept the puppet army troops surrounded, even though the genocidal air force was used to extricate an enemy unit from the critical military situation in which our guerrilla forces had put it.

At night, taking advantage of darkness and of the terrain, the puppet army's demoralized troops were able to evade the circle in which they had been held all day Friday. We have been told from Usulutan that our forces maintained control of the Coastal Highway until 2100, when they withdrew in complete order.

This action was led by Companero Jeronimo and the report was sent from Usulutan by Commander Roberto Jimenez. This has been a new setback for the CONARA plan in Usulutan. During the fighting on the Coastal Highway, our revolutionary forces inflicted 22 casualties on the puppet army, 10 dead and 12 wounded; we repeat, 10 were killed and 12 were wounded, for a total of 22 casualties suffered by elements of the Atlacatl Battalion, the Cazadores Battalion, and the Treasury Police.

Rebels Cut Off Energy

PA210332 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces are continuing their reconstruction work in Usulutan Department. Meanwhile, our correspondents in the interior, especially in San Miguel and Usulutan Departments, have reported that the leftist guerrillas left four departments without energy early this afternoon.

The road to the beach resort of El Espino has once again been opened to the public. The road has been closed for 2 years because of the presence of extremists.

It has also been learned that the town of Chirilagua has been recovered. The town has been under rebel control for the last 2 years. Military sources at the 6th Brigade, headquartered in the City of Usulutan, said that the rebels have harassed the guard stations and the civilian residents in the area for 2 years.

GUATEMALA

MEJIA THREATENS ESTABLISHMENT OF DICTATORSHIP

Criticizes Political Groups

PA180130 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] At an improvised press conference during his official visit to Mixco, Chief of State General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores strongly criticized the political groups that have been causing political problems and violence in the country over the past few days and warned that if what they want is a dictator, they are going to get one. When asked who the dictator would be, he said: I don't know who he will be, but they will see.

Assembly Must Follow Guidelines

PA180140 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0048 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, Guatemalan chief of state, today threatened to become a dictator if the next national constituent assembly "does not follow the guidelines under which it was created."

Mejia responded with a warning to the various political parties that are asking that the next constituent assembly have complete sovereignty and that it choose a provisional president. "I was emphatic about this once and I will not continue repeating it. The constituent assembly is not to govern but to draft a constitution," Mejia said.

Asked about what would happen if, once the assembly has been formed, it decided to choose a provisional president, Mejia said "just wait and see what happens to them," and stated that if "they want a dictator they will have one."

Mejia did not wish to expand on details regarding his warning, but reiterated that if the assembly does not follow its guidelines "just wait and see what happens to them, and they will find out who the dictator will be."

The chief of state told reporters that he has the support of the people and the Army and warned that the electoral law will not be modified. "They (the politicians) must understand that they are being given a great opportunity. They have never before had this opportunity in Guatemala," Mejia added, regarding the political process which has begun in the country.

The chief of state's statements brought immediate reactions from political leaders. Marco Vinicio Cerezo, secretary general of the Guatemalan Christian Democracy (DCG), said that if a dictatorship is established in the country, "the dictator will definitely have to face a process of polarization and violence that Guatemala will not be able to stand." Cerezo said, "This country has a democracy not because a gracious concession is being made, but because historic circumstances demand it."

"If we want to prevent the destruction of the country, if we want to enter a process of rationalization, the Army as well as the members of the government and the political leaders must reject a stand that would lead us to an irreversible situation," Cerezo added. The political leader added that in Guatemala "it is not possible to establish a new tyranny; this is not possible because the circumstances will not allow it, and this would lead the country to destruction."

Cerezo warned that the imposition of a dictatorship would favor the extreme left because conditions would be perfect for the development of a civil war in the country, and this would surely place Guatemala in a situation of extreme violence.

MEJIA, ANDRADE COMMENT ON OPTIONS FOR BELIZE

PA210422 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 18 Feb 84 p 4

[Text] It should be stated in the Constitution that Belize is part of Guatemala, according to Head of State General Mejia Victores. He and Foreign Minister Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran told the press yesterday that one of the many options for solving the Belize problem is to demand only the district of Toledo.

The head of state said in Mixco, that Guatemala's demands will continue to be pursued through peaceful negotiations, because "we have nothing to lose in conversation and dialogue." The next constituent assembly, he added, should include the Belize issue in its Magna Carta, clearly stressing that "that territory continues to be a part of Guatemala."

When asked if the concept of demanding only the district of Toledo will be maintained, as former President Rios Montt once said, the current head of state said: It could be "at least that much."

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Andrade Diaz-Duran told a PRENSA LIBRE reporter that Guatemala will never recognize the unilateral independence of the territory of Belize. Our country will proceed with its legitimate claims to that territory, and with its intention of achieving a strategic path to the Caribbean. As for the district of Toledo, which has an area of only 6,000 square km, Andrade said that it could be an option, but it is not the only one. The government has many options, which could be considered in a new round of negotiations. What is absolutely certain, he concluded, is that we will continue to pursue our claims until we achieve a dignified solution and satisfy all of our interests.

ANDRADE SAYS RELATIONS WITH USSR NEVER BROKEN

PA180037 Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish 16 Feb 84 p 4

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran, is correct when he says that Guatemala maintains diplomatic relations with the USSR, as it has been established that during the regime of former President Jacobo Arbenz, from 1951 to 1954, these relations were never officially interrupted. This statement was made yesterday by Ramon Zelada Carrillo, deputy secretary of public relations.

During the Arbenz administration, Guatemala appointed Luis Cardoza y Aragon ambassador to Moscow. Carlos Manuel Pellecer was the embassy secretary before giving up communism. The government spokesman said that Foreign Minister Andrade Diaz-Duran had defined the situation well; that although there had been no formal break in relations, neither country has appointed a new ambassador since 1954.

Referring to commercial relations, Zelada Carrillo said that the foreign minister had explained that there has only been some trade exchange following visits by Guatemalan missions to socialist countries like Romania and Czechoslovakia.

MLN'S VILLA NUEVA DIRECTOR KIDNAPPED 12 FEB

PA172206 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] The National Liberation Movement [MLN] today reported the kidnapping of its director in Villa Nueva, (Jose Antonio Parada Tanchez). According to an MLN spokesman, (Parada Tanchez) was kidnapped from his home at 1300 Sunday by six men carrying submachine guns, who pushed him into a yellow station wagon and drove away.

Meanwhile, in Guatemala City, other armed men riding in three cars kidnapped (Jorge Daniel Calvo Bravo) from his residence in Zone 1; and in Zone 5 eight masked men broke into the home of (Carlos Guillermo Ramirez Galvez) and took him away.

FUN FIRST PARTY TO REGISTER FOR ELECTIONS

PA172221 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 16

[Text] The National Unity Front, FUN, today became the first political party to provisionally register for the upcoming elections. After being notified this morning by the Registrar's Office, Gabirel Giron Ortiz, FUN secretary general, announced that the party was already in the process of electing its candidates for the National Constituent Assembly.

PDC SECRETARY ALLEGES 'PLOT' AGAINST HIS LIFE

PA181953 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0209 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Vinicio Cerezo, secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], today charged that there's a plot to kill him in which persons connected with the government security forces are involved. At a press conference, Cerezo said that the plot against his life is not an isolated incident, but "is part of a big plot being hatched in this country to halt the democratization process and to seek to create the conditions for a coup d'etat." The political leader said that this big plot has been conceived by several groups, some of whom might have infiltrated into the national police security corps.

Cerezo said that it is necessary to launch a national movement against violence in Guatemala, which could be sponsored by institutions such as the church or various universities. Cerezo concluded by accusing the extreme rightists of trying to prevent the democratization process in the country.

DEMOCRATIC COORDINATING BOARD ANNOUNCES MEMBERS

PA210209 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] The membership of the new Democratic Coordinating Board is to be officially announced at a press conference at the Del Junco Hotel at 1500 today. The board will include all the leftist democratic organizations, including the Christian Democrats, the Nationalist Renovator Party, and the United Revolutionary Front.

Also to be included in this new organization are the leftist democratic committees that are striving to become political parties, including the Civic Democratic Front, whose chief ideologist is Jorge Gonzalez del Valle; the UCN [Union of the National Center], whose political council is headed by journalist Jorge Carpio; the Democratic Alliance, led by Leopoldo Urrutia; and the Social Christians, led by Carlos Gehlert Mata.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA ON STONE'S RESIGNATION, U.S. BASES

PA181654 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica has said that he does not know why Richard Stone, roving U.S. ambassador for Latin America, resigned, but what counts is that his successor continues the highly positive task. According to Paz Barnica, Stone's resignation will not hamper the work that Stone had been doing because the United States maintains a definite policy in various fields both here and abroad.

Regarding the visit that the U.S. Army chief of staff will make to Honduras in the next few days, Paz Barnica said the visit is not to discuss the installation of military bases because nothing formal has yet been determined; only preliminary talks have been held. Paz Barnica said: He is an officer of the Armed Forces of a country with which we maintain economic, technical, and military relations. He will come to get information about his field.

Paz Barnica also asserted that no foreign bases should exist in Central America. What counts is that cooperation with the United States be maintained on the basis of mutual respect and the determination of Dr Roberto Suazo Cordova's constitutional and democratic government. Suazo Cordova will never do anything to harm national sovereignty or the republic's dignity.

ARMY SPOKESMAN ON 'GRENADIER I' EXERCISES

PA171940 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 16 Feb 84 p 4

[Excerpt] Colonel Cesar Elvir Sierra, a Honduran Armed Forces spokesman, yesterday denied that the U.S. Government and the Honduran Armed Forces plan to carry out military actions along the Salvadoran border.

Responding to our query, Sierra rejected an EFE dispatch datelined Tegucigalpa that said that the presence of a military engineer in the area "increased the likelihood of military actions" in this area. The dispatch said that "the rumors of U.S. military plans along the Honduras-El Salvador border have increased with the visit of an engineer from the Southern Command (stationed at the Panama Canal) to the refugee camps in the area."

Sierra said that the planned "Grenadier I" exercises will be carried out in the country's western region and not near the Guatemalan and Salvadoran borders. The refugee camps are located a few kilometers from the two borders. The spokesman said that the relocation of refugees and the "Grenadier I" exercises are not related but are two separate actions. Therefore, the two cannot be linked.

SUAZO ON UNITY, DEFENSE AGAINST SUBVERSIVES

PA202014 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Speech by President Roberto Suazo Cordova at a ceremony held to dedicate government works in Lempira Department in 1983; in the city of Erandique, on 19 February -- recorded]

[Excerpts] I feel the deepest emotion and the greatest satisfaction in seeing the humble faces of the brave Lempira Indians, who along with the brave Indians of Intibuca and my dear Indians from the mountains are the permanent sentinels of democracy and freedom in this country, because they are the soldiers [words indistinct]. [Applause, shouts of "Long live Dr Suazo Cordova!"]

[Words indistinct] just and honest leaders guaranteed by our Armed Forces, by the chiefs, officers, noncommissioned officers, and troops of our national Army, who are fully identified with the Honduran people, since they are bastions for the defense of our sovereignty and territorial integrity and for preserving order and tranquillity in this country, where some hot-heads are trying to subvert the public order. [applause, shouts]

However, the Honduran people, the Honduran president, the national government, and the Armed Forces form a granite-like unity against which the efforts of those who are wrapped in the red and black of international communism will crash. [applause] We will never (?coexist) with those who have promoted subversion in Central America. We have said that if our blood is shed, blessed be the Lord and may our blood fertilize the luxuriant tree of freedom, justice, and democracy among our people. [applause]

It has fallen to us to act amid a very difficult economic situation. However, as we have already explained on other occasions, this situation is not exclusive to Honduras; it is a worldwide crisis. Nonetheless, we have maintained the stability of our currency and have preserved peace and tranquillity.

I am satisfied, and I don't care if the commies [nangaras] criticize me. As long as the government has funds available it will strengthen the Armed Forces, because they will preserve the country's dignity. [applause, cheers] They [the communists] would like Suazo Cordova to befriend the subversives. Never. I am not afraid of them.

We are not saving Suazo Cordova or working for him. We are in the midst of agitation -- Guatemala with its guerrilla problems, El Salvador with over 3 years of a bloody and violent civil war sponsored by international communism, and Nicaragua with a completely Marxist-Leninist regime -- yet here we are, Hondurans, intelligent men and women, standing alongside our Armed Forces, firmly determined to preserve peace, tranquillity, and the integrity of our territorial sovereignty.

FOREIGN SECRETARY INTERVIEWED ON NICARAGUA

PA172145 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Interview with Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica by an unidentified reporter; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] Have recent incidents with Nicaragua interfered with the search for peace in the region?

[Paz Barnica] Well, there has been a series of recent incidents which constitute violations of Honduras' territorial integrity by members of the Nicaraguan Government Army. We have issued the pertinent protests, and we hope that these incidents will not be repeated, as they only increase tension between the two countries. I think we should try to improve our relations with the various nations with whom we maintain mechanisms of understanding and relations. The important thing is to find a peaceful solution and to have peaceful coexistence resulting from mutual respect among the Central American nations based on democracy, liberty, justice, and peace.

[Reporter] Will the resignation of the Panamanian president affect the Contadora Group negotiations?

[Paz Barnica] I don't think so. This is an internal situation, and we must be respectful of the nonintervention principle. I don't know the reasons for Panamanian President De la Espriella's resignation. The only information that I have is what has been published in the national press and through international dispatches. We trust that the new president, Jorge Illueca -- the former vice president -- will maintain a position of equanimity, objectivity, and impartiality as a member of the Contadora Group, since these three aspects are fundamental for the progress and success of the Contadora Group's efforts.

Partiality would be disastrous, but we are confident that the four Contadora Group countries will act within these parameters to find a peaceful solution for the Central American crisis, which not only includes political aspects but is also related to social and economic transformations and to the fundamental aspect of security. These are the three topics being analyzed by the working commissions created in January within the Contadora Group's framework.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of the Nicaraguan ambassador's statement that only Nicaraguans get killed, and that the relations between the two countries continue to be tense?

[Paz Barnica] What you have just quoted him on is not true. I understand that he also said he hoped that relations between the two countries would improve in the future. I also trust that relations will improve.

[Reporter] The Nicaraguan diplomat also mentioned that there will soon be an exchange of prisoners between Nicaragua and Honduras.

[Paz Barnica] There have been Honduran prisoners in Nicaragua for years, and recently we have held Nicaraguan prisoners in Honduras, although not as many. Honduras proposed this exchange of prisoners at the end of December. The Nicaraguan Government replied to our proposal with certain conditions. I discussed the matter broadly yesterday with the Nicaraguan ambassador to Honduras in a cordial and respectful manner, which contrasted with the statement by the Nicaraguan charge d'affaires a few days ago. I trust that the exchange is possible if the Nicaraguan Government is really interested in detente and understanding.

INFORMATION OFFICE ANSWERS DEPUTY'S CHARGES

PA201743 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Communique released by the Information Office of the Presidential Office in Tegucigalpa on 19 February]

[Text] In view of the bold and groundless charges made with astonishing rashness by Deputy Carlos Montoya against the government's Information Office, we hereby state our public position in the following manner:

1. We flatly deny the false charge that this office handles an annual budget of 1 million lempiras that is used to bribe journalists and to buy people off on behalf of the national government.

2. We announce to the citizens that the Information Office's budget is only 200,000 lempiras a year. This money is used to buy space in publications and time on electronic media to publicize, as much as this modest sum allows, those aspects of the public administration's work which most interest the community, as well as to promote literacy, the identification of individuals, and to carry out other activities of collective interest.

3. We demand that Deputy Montoya publish the names of the journalists and media which, according to him, receive illicit money from this office to sell their opinion on behalf of this democratic government's policies. We know that he will be unable to do this, simply because they do not exist. The Suazo Cordova administration characterizes itself not only by its respect for freedom of the press and freedom of expression, but also for its firm rejection of the corrupt practices that in the past insulted the dignity of the professionals in the field of communications.

4. Finally, we invite journalists to express their opinion about this clumsy, false, and (?generalized) charge, which stains the prestige of their noble work, showing the extremes to which political resentment can lead: accusing without evidence members of a profession so noble that, without selfishness or narrowmindedness, it offers its channels of communication to the very person slandering it.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA COMPLETES USSR VISIT, RETURNS TO MANAGUA

Discusses C.A. With TASS

PA171619 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Moscow -- Commenting on his meeting with Konstantin Chernenko, Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, has said that the two reached an understanding about Central America's current problems. During an interview granted to TASS just before his departure from the Soviet Union, Ortega said that Chernenko had expressed the solidarity of the CPSU and the Soviet Government with the people with Nicaragua.

Ortega charged that the United States has mobilized about 10,000 counterrevolutionaries to carry out criminal actions against the Nicaraguan people. He also said that all large-scale operations in 1983 failed. These operations continue in 1984 with the goal of seizing part of Nicaragua. Ortega added that the increased attacks are aimed at isolating Nicaragua so that air raids, which have negative economic consequences, are carried out against civilians and some military targets. Ortega announced that the damage caused by counterrevolutionary terrorist actions has been estimated at about $127,200,000. Despite the constant attacks, the enthusiastic workers adopted firm measures and contributed to a 5.1 percent increase in production last year, the Nicaraguan official pointed out. Finally, Ortega indicated that this growth was due to the completion of revolutionary changes, particularly in the agricultural and energy sectors.

TASS Interview Detailed

For reportage on an interview with Daniel Ortega, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, who was in Moscow for the funeral of Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, including his remarks on Central American problems and Soviet-Nicaraguan relations, see the Latin America & Caribbean section of the 17 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

Meets Gonzalez at Madrid Stopover

PA171713 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Madrid -- Daniel Ortega, commander of the revolution and coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, and Commander Fidel Castro Ruz, president of Cuba, have given a quick press conference after meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and before leaving Madrid.

The three leaders agreed to support the Contadora Group's efforts. Here are Ortega's and Gonzalez' comments at the Barajas Airport in Madrid.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] We are glad to have spent these few hours in Spain. One week ago we met with Prime Minister Gonzalez in Buenos Aires, then again in Caracas, and now here in Madrid. We identify with Spain and feel that we are a part of [words indistinct]. We also had the opportunity of greeting King Juan Carlos, who is also concerned about the Central American situation and who has consistently made efforts to achieve peace.

[Gonzalez] I spoke to one of the Contadora Group's outstanding members, President Betancur, over the phone, although I am currently meeting with President Castro and Commander Ortega. Our meeting was not specifically about Central American issues, but a comment from Castro expressed an interest in possible discussions. [passage indistinct] As for the Contadora Group, let me say that it has made positive strides. Peace is necessary, and it is necessary to aid in its growth. We live permanently struggling between the anguish of losing peace and the hope of recovering it. The chance to recover peace is promising. This is what I hope for. We are all convinced that the Contadora Group is making an earnest effort in this direction. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Further on Madrid Stopover

For reportage on Government Junta member Daniel Ortega's unexpected stopover in Madrid on his return from the Soviet Union, including his meeting with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, see the Spain section of the 17 February Western Europe DAILY REPORT.

Returns to Managua

PA172232 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] The Nicaraguan delegation, headed by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, that attended Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov's funeral arrived back in Nicaragua a few minutes ago. The delegation also included Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto and Rene Nunez, secretary of the FSLN. The delegation was met at the Augusto C. Sandino Airport by Sergio Ramirez Mercado, member of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction; Commander of the Revolution Humberto Ortega Saavedra, defense minister; Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano, coordinator of the FSLN's political commission; and other members of the revolutionary cabinet. German Shlyapnikov, Soviet ambassador to Nicaragua, was also at the airport to greet the delegation. Shortly after his arrival, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega held a press conference with foreign and local correspondents who were present at the Augusto C. Sandino Airport.

DELEGATIONS ARRIVING FOR SANDINO'S ANNIVERSARY

PA202240 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Diplomatic delegations from Syria, Argentina, Afghanistan, Poland, France, Portugal, Cuba, Spain, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, and Czechoslovakia arrived in our country yesterday at the invitation of the revolutionary government as special guests for the ceremonies in which the people and their vanguard will render homage to the general of free men, Augusto Cesar Sandino.

The various delegations were met at the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport by the Nicaraguan foreign minister; officials from the Department of International Relations, DIR; and executive members of the national committee that has organized the events. All of the delegations expressed respect and admiration for the Sandinist people's revolution.

The arriving guests include Muhammad Najdi Jazzar, Syrian ambassador to Cuba, Ladislav Adamec, deputy premier of the Czech Socialist Republic and member of the Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee; ('Adbol Samad), a representative of Afghanistan; (Michel Moreau), a French deputy; (Aurelio Santos), representing Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel of Argentina; and (Ahmad Mahdab Abdul Arab) and (Kharal Hasan At-Tumini) from the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Commander of the Revolution Tomas Borge, the interior minister, also arrived from Paris, France, after attending the funerals of Argentine writer Julio Cortazar, a friend of the Sandinist people's revolution.

MINISTER SAYS ELECTIONS ADVANCED TO 4 NOV 84

PA211312 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1152 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] Canberra, 21 Feb (LATIN-REUTER) -- The Nicaraguan Government has advanced its elections from 1985 to November of this year, Nicaraguan Foreign Trade Minister Alejandro Martinez Cuenca announced here today. He said in a press conference that the 4 November elections in Nicaragua will be to choose a president, a vice president, and 90 Legislative Assembly delegates. Nicaragua has been governed by a left-wing Sandinist administration since 1979 when the Sandinists overthrew the right-wing, pro-U.S. Anastasio Somoza administration.

Martinez Cuenca's statement came prior to the electoral announcement scheduled for today in Managua as the climax of the events marking the 50th anniversary of the death of national Nicaraguan hero Augusto Cesar Sandino. The United States has said that the delay in holding elections demonstrates that Nicaragua lacks democratic prospects.

Martinez Cuenca said that his country will welcome the presence of international observers at the elections. He noted the fact that advancing the elections reflects the commitment assumed by his government before the international community to build a pluralist society. Martinez Cuenca said that there will be a plurality of candidates in the elections, which will be held the first Sunday in November. All citizens over 16 years of age will be able to vote, he said.

He called on the United States to cease promoting what he described as a counterrevolution launched from Honduras so that the elections can be held peacefully and normally.

The priority task of the new assembly will be to draft the new constitution, which will become effective in 2 years, Martinez Cuenca explained. Martinez Cuenca is here heading a small commercial delegation. He said that he believes that the United States will do everything possible to prevent the elections from being held. "We will maintain our decision knowing that the rest of the world is watching Nicaragua with interest," he added.

Martinez Cuenca said that the friends of the United States such as Australia can help secure peace in the strife-torn Central American region by supporting U.S. nonintervention and what he described as covert activities.

GOVERNMENT ALLOTS $60 MILLION FOR ELECTIONS

PA171738 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Commander Carlos Nunez Tellez, pesident of the State Council, has announced that the Nicaraguan Government will spend more than 600 million cordobas -- $60 million -- on the 1985 presidential elections. Nunez Tellez added that each political party will be equally entitled to 6 million cordobas -- $600,000 -- to use the communications media once the campaign begins.

Regarding the electoral law drafted by a commission that he heads, Nunez Tellez said that the debates before the plenum will begin on 22 February, a day after the Government Junta is to announce the schedule for next year's elections. Commander Nunez noted that the electoral law will be approved during the second week of March, after which the Supreme Electoral Council, which will organize the electoral system, will be formed.

Nunez added that some of the Supreme Electoral Council's duties will include preparation of a schedule for the internal meetings of the political parties' board of directors, registration of the political organizations that will participate in the elections, inscription of candidates for president or legislator, and regulation of access to the communications media.

Regarding the state of emergency currently in effect in Nicaragua, Nunez Tellez said that it could be entirely lifted, but that this does not mean that it will be permanently lifted.

ORTEGA ON HANDING OVER POWER AFTER ELECTIONS

PA190250 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Feb 84

["Face the People" program, with guests Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction; Sergio Ramirez, Government Junta member; Carlos Tunnerman, education minister; and Omar Cabezas, Sandinist Assembly member, held at the Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Plaza in Managua -- live, broadcast in progress]

[Excerpt] [Rugama] Good evening, companero members of the Government Junta and everyone else here on "Face the People." My name is Juan Rugama, and I am the general manager of state theaters. My question is for Commander Ortega.

A few days ago, I read your statement in the newspapers that if the FSLN loses the elections it will step aside. What will happen to all of the people who are Sandinists? Fifty years later, the crowd is still responding: Sandino Lives! [applause]

[Ortega] Where did you read that, companero? What the press said is that if the FSLN loses the elections, it will hand over power. I think that this is fundamental. We are only as strong as our support from the people, and to the degree that the people are Sandinists. On the day that the people no longer want Sandinism, on the day that the people no longer want to be Sandinists and choose to return to Somoza, or seek a return of the right wing, then we might oppose the people's will. What we said was that if the people decided in the elections -- and this is a hypothetical issue, because we are certain that the people will not take backward steps and will not go against their own interests, although there is no certainty that they will confirm the revolution's advances -- however, in the hypothetical case that the people reject the FSLN, then how could we impose ourselves by force?

The FSLN is popular, and it has succeeded because it has shown the people that it is not an artificial force imposed upon them; the people themselves, participating in the struggle, made the FSLN their vanguard.

On the day that the people's vanguard becomes stagnant, the revolution will be lost. On the day that the people turn against the vanguard, the revolution will be lost and imperialism will win the battle. In this hypothetical case, in which the people say that they no longer want the FSLN, then how could we impose the FSLN upon them? We are certain, however, that the people want the FSLN, because the people are the FSLN. [applause]

ARDE PROPOSES CEASE-FIRE FOR FREE ELECTIONS

PA210137 (Clandestine) Voice of Sandino in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Feb 84

["Text" of statement issued by the Nicaraguan Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, ARDE, in Sarapiqui, Rio San Juan Department, on 18 February and in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 20 February; read by Alfonso Robelo -- recorded]

[Text] For Peace and Democracy in Nicaragua:

On the even of his death, General Augusto Cesar Sandino, the symbol of our nation, deplored the high cost that we would have to continue to pay to achieve peace and social justice. Fifty years after his sacrifice, his fears have been fully confirmed. Nicaragua has undergone a drama of vast proportions in this half century, the social contradictions and causes of which are still present.

Thus, all Nicaraguans must think of our people first, to minimize the high cost in human lives that we are paying for our political tragedy. ARDE has declared that its differences with the FSLN derive from the anti-democratic system that has been imposed by that government in our country. We have insistently asserted that it is necessary to seek political solutions than can end the crisis and the violence. However, the lack of response to our demands has compelled us to take up weapons.

On this occasion, we wish to stress our position on the plans for elections to the Nicaraguan people, the democratic sectors within the FSLN, and the world. We are nationalist revolutionaries and we are struggling for respect for and the consolidation of the revolution's achievements. We are also struggling to secure genuine and effective pluralist participation -- rather than the organized and mandatory system that now applies -- by all of the political sectors in Nicaragua in making decisions on our many problems.

We insist on this last point, because an electoral process without the presence of the democratic forces in exile would only serve to increase our national contradictions and to frustrate the hopes for regional peace and security. On the basis of these and other considerations that have been pointed out by our alliance, we present the following basic conditions that might render an electoral plan trustworthy:

1. The point of departure by which to stop the violence is for the FSLN to agree to an electoral compromise that would permit the participation, barring none, of all representative forces and their leaders in our country.

2. The FSLN must demonstrate a genuine commitment to democracy and must end the superimposition of government functions over those of the party, and must particularly separate the army's functions from those of the party in power.

3. The entire electoral process must be carried out within the framework of a climate of national reconciliation, under Latin American supervision, with the appropriate legal instruments guaranteeing that legal procedures and arbitration are applied throughout.

4. All public liberties must be restored and appropriate measures should be created to guarantee the political activities of all opposition forces, through the creation of favorable conditions for all political party activities.

5. The rules of electoral process must be clearly defined regardless of the present situation. In addition, the basic guidelines for our parties must be established, and it must be pledged, publicly and formally, that the electoral results will be respected, even if they are adverse to the FSLN.

6. The various forms of institutionalized repression must be eliminated and the internationalists and foreign military officers who are playing roles that rightly belong to Nicaraguans must be sent away.

If the FSLN, as a group, pledges to take and then does take specific steps to implement these legitimate demands of those who are struggling for the restoration of the revolution's original plans, ARDE will be willing to cease its military operations, under a priori guarantees by countries that have remained neutral in the conflict.

We are not demanding to share in the power being exercised by the FSLN; we are only claiming the right of every Nicaraguan to participate in an electoral process under the same circumstances and conditions that affect the official party. The FSLN now has the historic opportunity to prove that its electoral arguments are based on the supreme goal of saving our nation from the crisis and the war. It should place the interests of the homeland before the interests of the party.

We once more declare that we are willing to seek a dignified and true solution to our national conflict. We thus render homage, on this 50th anniversary, to Sandino's goals. He once pointed out that the highest duty of every good Nicaraguan should be to seek peace in Nicaragua.

Opposition Reaction

PA210249 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0029 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Washington, 20 Feb (EFE) -- The truce proposal offered by ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] to the Nicaraguan Government was received here today with indignation and surprise by Sandinist opposition sectors. Adriana Guillen, spokeswoman for the MISURA Indians in Washington, termed the proposal "an insult to the struggle of the Nicaraguan people."

ARDE's leaders, speaking today in San Jose, Costa Rica, proposed a cease-fire to the Sandinist government in exchange for specific steps to "ensure a trustworthy electoral process" in Nicaragua. The organization led by Eden Pastora, also known as Commander Cero, demanded that observers from neutral countries be present to guarantee the electoral process that will culminate in 1985.

Bosco Matamoros, local representative of the Nicaraguan Democratic Front, FDN, told EFE that Pastora's initiative came as a surprise to him and that he is waiting to learn of the complete proposal, so that he can study and assess it. "ARDE never had any real interest in the Nicaraguan democratic process," said Guillen, who added that the proposal would only help to solve "the crisis experienced by the Sandinist junta."

Adriana Guillen termed the ARDE proposal "a fifth column game" that only weakens the Nicaraguan opposition's position, as expressed by the coordinating board. The opposition coordinating board has demanded that the Managua government separate the Sandinist Front from the government and respect the commitment undertaken in 1979, which provided for elections for a constituent assembly. The creation of an assembly, according to the agreement reached at the conclusion of the struggle against Somoza, would make it possible to draft a new constitution and to hold general elections.

ARDE's proposal, according the the sources consulted by EFE, was based on an initiative from the EEC governments, reportedly suggested that the Nicaraguan opposition accept the Sandinist junta's electoral plan. The sources said that Arturo Cruz, a high-ranking ARDE leader, held intense negotiations in the last few weeks with the Governments of Canada, Costa Rica, and Venezuela to obtain support for the proposal by the alliance headed by Pastora.

FDN'S CALERO DISCUSSES TALKS TO UNITE WITH ARDE

PA191713 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1643 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Guatemala City, 19 Feb (ACAN-EFE) -- Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, president of the national directorate of the Nicaraguan Democratic Force [FDN], announced here today the unification of the anti-Sandinist groups on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the death of Augusto Cesar Sandino.

Calero, who visited Guatemala this weekend, granted an interview today to the newspaper EL GRAFICO in which he said that an FDN commission is working with the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance [ARDE] led by Eden Pastora to secure an agreement on 21 February, the 50th anniversary of Sandino's death.

Asked about the presence of Somozists in the FDN ranks, Calero replied that "we maintain that all Nicaraguans have the right to struggle for the liberty of their fatherland. We do not distinguish between those who served under the former government and those who served under the current one." "Ours is not an avenging struggle," Calero explained, "but one of national conciliation. Only communists make purges."

Regarding the military situation in Nicaragua, Calero said that Jinotega Province has been virtually liberated by the FDN, which has 10,000 men and will number twice as many in the coming months.

Furthermore, there are some 7,000 men with ARDE and the Miskito, Sumu, Rama, Sandinist Unity ("MISURASATA") who are fighting the Sandinist government, the anti-Sandinist leader stated. "Despite having unlimited resources sent by Cuba and the USSR, the Sandinists have low morale and there is rebellion and desertion in the Army ranks," Calero explained. The anti-Sandinist leader added that FDN troops had conducted operations only 40 km from Managua.

In the political field, Calero said that the Sandinists rule by decree "in an arbitrary and capricious manner," and he noted as an example the recent nationalization of television channels. "These channels have been in the hands of the FSLN for 4 and 1/2 years, and what they are trying to do is to legitimize something that cannot be legitimized," the politician stated.

Calero did not explain the reason for his visit to Guatemala, but he declared that the Nicaraguan democrats are expecting at least an act of solidarity on the part of their Central American brothers. The politician cited as an example of that solidarity the participation of expenditionaries of Central America, such as Zavala of Guatemala, Bellozo of El Salvador, Xatruch of Honduras, and Juan Rafael Morales of Costa Rica in the war of Nicaragua against William Walker.

More on Unification

PA202330 Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish 19 Feb 84 p 2

[Text] Guatemala, 18 Feb -- The unification of the anti-Sandinist groups on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Augusto Cesar Sandino's death was announced yesterday in Guatemala by Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, president of the National Directorate of the FDN [Nicarguan Democratic Force] in an exclusive interview he gave DIARIO EL GRAFICO while passing through Guatemala on his way to Washington.

Calero Portocarrero's dominating personality softens and his eyes light up when he says that the more than 10,000 men in Nicaraguan territory have inflicted serious defeats on the Sandinist Army and that Jinotega Department is practically a liberated territory, where his men move about freely.

EL GRAFICO: Is there a chance that the FDN will join Eden Pastora's forces, which operate on the Costa Rican border?

Portocarrero: Yes, there is a commission working with ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] on the basis of the known fact that we are struggling against a common enemy and that we have a common goal: To establish a democratic regime in Nicaragua. We hope that we can come to an agreement by 21 February, which is the 50th anniversary of the death of Augusto Cesar Sandino, who was Nicaragua's greatest democrat and who has been ridiculed by the misnamed Sandinists.

EL GRAFICO: Won't the presence of Somozists in the FDN be an obstacle to an alliance among the various anti-Sandinist groups?

Portocarrero: We hold that all Nicaraguans have the right to struggle for their fatherland's liberty. We do not draw the line at those who served the previous government or the current government, because our struggle is not vengeful; it is a struggle of national conciliation. Purges are only undertaken by communists, and we represent the very antithesis of that system and its actions, because we are Christians who know how to forgive. I was jailed under the Somoza regime, but that doesn't mean I think that they were all bad.

EL GRAFICO: Do you plan to take action against the Sandinist government in the near future?

Portocarrero: The Sandinist government is rapidly deteriorating, because it has nothing to offer the Nicaraguan people. It claims that the problem is a recession, but the people are in fact tired of that anti-national and anti-Central American government. This is why every day more men join the army that is fighting the Sandinists. There are now some 10,000 men in the FDN and fighting in Nicaraguan territory, and we hope to double this number in the next few months. Furthermore, there are some 7,000 men fighting with ARDE and the MISURASATA [Miskito, Sumu and Rama Sandinist Unity]

EL GRAFICO: Is the Sandinist Army putting up a lot of resistance?

Portocarrero: Their moral is low, and there is rebellion and desertion within the ranks of the Sandinist Army, although they have been sent unlimited resources by the communists of the USSR and Cuba. We have managed to carry out actions only 40 km from Managua, and the people have joined and supported us.

EL GRAFICO: What do you think of the nationalization of the television channels?

Portocarrero: That is pure hypocrisy, because for the past 4 and 1/2 years all of the channels have been owned by the FSLN. This is an effort to legitimize something that cannot be legitimate. It is an example of how they govern by decree, arbitrarily and capriciously, because there is no respect in Nicaragua either for the law or for the Sandinists. They use the law at whim and in their favor, against the people.

EL GRAFICO: What kind of support is the FDN receiving from the Central American countries?

Portocarrero: This is our second national war. he first was against William Walker, in which Central American expeditionary forces participated, including Zavala from Guatemala, Belloso from El Salvador, Chatruc from Honduras, and Juan Rafael Mora from Costa Rica. We, the Nicaraguan democrats, expect at least a show of solidarity from our Central American brothers.

BRIEFS

HUNGARIAN OFFICIAL VISITS -- Matyas Szuros, a member of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Central Committee, arrived today in Nicaragua. The Hungarian official was met by Commander Carlos Nunez Tellez, president of the Nicaraguan State Council, Janos Kiss, Hungarian ambassador to Nicaragua; and Nicaraguan Government officials. Szuros said that his trip is aimed at seeking mutual cooperation agreements between the two countries. [Summary] [Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network Spanish 0200 GMT 10 Feb 84 PA]

PRESS REPORTS ANDROPOV'S FUNERAL, CASTRO'S HOMAGE

PA170419 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Feb 84

[Text] Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, has met separately in Moscow with the top leaders of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, and the Polish United Workers' Party, Todor Zhivkov, Erich Honecker, and Wojciech Jaruzelski, respectively.

During the talks, which were held in a very cordial and friendly atmosphere, bilateral relations and international events were discussed. Fidel Castro, Todor Zhivkov, Erich Honecker, and Wojciech Jaruzelski are heading the delegations of their respective countries to the funeral of top Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov in Moscow.

The Cuban press, which for the fourth consecutive day has used a black and white format as a sign of mourning, has devoted much space to reports on the funeral rites of top Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov, whose remains were buried Tuesday in Moscow's Red Square.

Under the headline of [words indistinct], GRANMA published a chronicle, datelined Moscow, highlighting the homage rendered by Cuban President Fidel Castro to the late leader of the USSR. A life is gone, but a message has remained. Communist time -- time time of struggle and creation -- must be lived with the same intensity with which Yuriy Andropov lived it, GRANMA stresses.

The Cuban newspapers also highlighted the election of Konstantin Chernenko as CPSU general secretary, and reproduced the full text of his speech to the special CPSU plenum in Moscow.

Castro's Return Noted

FL171216 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, returned to Cuba last night. He had been in the Soviet Union for the funeral of Yuriy Andropov.

On hand to meet Fidel were Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee, and other members of the Politburo and the Secretariat.

Arriving on the same flight were Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, and the other members of the Cuban and Nicaraguan delegations.

CASTRO LAUDS ACHIEVEMENTS IN NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW

PA181924 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] During an interview that he granted to NEWSWEEK magazine reporter Patricia (?Hessey), Fidel Castro discussed Cuba's most important achievements of the past 25 years, since the revolution triumphed on 1 January 1959.

Castro told NEWSWEEK that the Cuban people have acquired a sense of national independence never before experienced and they enjoy a personal dignity that had previously been denied. Castro said: For the first time, Cubans are the masters of their own nation. Nothing and no one threatens them on their territory. No one can discriminate against them on the basis of race or sex. Their social status is not determined by their income.

He added: In order to get a hospital bed when they are ill or to get a job, men no longer have to humiliate themselves, and women don't have to resort to prostitution. The economic and social transformations that characterize the revolution follow the acquisition of this dignity.

Castro also told NEWSWEEK: Our economy has grown at an approximate yearly average of 4.7 percent during the past 25 years. This is one of the continent's highest average growth rates, achieved despite the isolation imposed by the United States. In Latin America, we are in second place in terms of per capita food consumption, and our distribution per person is better than any other country in this hemisphere.

Castro noted: Regarding health, education, culture, and sports, we rank first among Third World countries, and even have a higher ranking than many industrialized countries. You would be surprised if I said that there is a greater percentage of illiterates and semi-literates in the population of the United States than there is in that of Cuba. You would not be surprised, however, if I said that in the United States there is a drug problem, gambling, prostitution, unemployment, extreme poverty, racial discrimination, and sexual exploitation of children. A substantial part of the U.S. capitalistic society is affected by these problems.

These problems do not exist in Cuba. I believe we have made some progress in relation to the United States since the triumph of the Cuban revolution.

Concerning predictions that the revolution is about to collapse, Castro told NEWSWEEK: The Cuban revolution's defeat and collapse have been predicted throughout the past 25 years. I don't think we will stop hearing this prediction in the next few years, because it is part of the aggressive and isolationist policy aimed at Cuba. He said: While those predictions continue to be artificially disseminated, thanks to the influence that Washington maintains on the mass media, not only in the United States, but including entire circuits of international propaganda, the Cuban revolution -- although it, too, is economically and politically hampered by propaganda -- still shows vitality. This vitality is due to its authenticity and to the fact that, as happens with any true revolution, it has strong popular roots. Had the Cuban people not identified deeply with the revolution, he added, we might have been crushed, because the powerful United States has used all possible forms of aggression against the Cuban revolution. It is our people who sustain and determine this revolution.

The idea is not one of blind, uncritical adherence to philosophy. Quite the contrary, he said. If you go out into the streets and listen to Cubans, you will find, provided they think you are Cuban, that they are very outspoken in criticizing all that they consider to be wrong. We know this is so, not only because of our responsibility as leaders but also because we hear the citizens' complaints through the many democratic communications media, and very often, through direct contact between the leaders and the people.

Discusses Relations With U.S.

PA182354 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Feb 84

["Station commentary" read by Jose Leandro Rodriguez]

[Text] Fidel Castro has said that relations between Cuba and the United States are currently so irrational and absurd that he is confident that they will grow more normal someday.

In an interview granted recently to journalist Patricia (Hessey), a reporter for the U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK, Castro discussed Cuba's domestic and foreign policy, particularly Cuba's relations with the United States. Castro said that before the two countries could develop normal relations, the United States would have to select a president who realized that the premises that guided Washington's efforts in 1960 to try to prevent the Cuban people from taking the sociopolitical path that they considered best are not justified politically, and certainly not in terms of international law.

Fidel Castro told NEWSWEEK that it is time that U.S. leaders understand that the Latin America that they viewed for years as their natural backyard, where they could enthrone and oust governments and issue orders at will, and where U.S. ambassadors made decisions for local presidents, no longer exists.

Castro added: It is also time that the United States understand that socialism is a solid reality in a significant part of the world, and that it will not be eliminated by war or by economic and military pressure. Fidel Castro predicted: In years to come, and very possibly before the year 2000, Cuba will not be the only Latin American country that has chosen socialism and its form of government, although the others may not be identical to ours, which has been referred to as the Cuban model, but which we are certainly not trying to universalize. He added: There will also be non-socialist governments that will be determined to prevent the economic rule of transnationals. The U.S. leaders will have to accept this, whether they like it or not, for it is a fact of history.

In a different part of the interview, Fidel Castro said that the fact that Cuba continues to be a socialist country and that the United States continues to be capitalism's most important exponent in the world should not prevent the two countries and governments from working constructively in certain important areas. Right now, he added, if the Reagan administration put aside its ideological obsession, and in response to the Contadora Group's recommendation, seriously decided to promote a negotiated solution to Central America's problems, both Cuba and the United States, along with other countries in the region, could contribute to constructing the foundations for peace and for the democratic structural changes that Central America so badly needs.

Fidel Castro later told NEWSWEEK: We have never refused to hold talks with the Reagan administration; as you know, talks were held between U.S. Secretary of State Haig and Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez. Sometime later, General Walters came to Havana, and we had a long conversation. However, I would not say that a dialogue was established; it was more a confrontation between viewpoints.

Castro continued: There will be no hope for dialogue as long as Reagan persists in his theory that the Central American situation is the result of a dangerous relationship between the USSR and Cuba, and refuses to admit that these social disturbances began in Central America 50 years ago, when the Soviet revolution was still fighting for survival and when the Cuban revolution did not even exist.

Castro concluded: I don't believe that our revolution can be exported. However, I admit that the example of the Cuban revolution has significantly influenced the revolutionary movements in Latin America over the last 20 years, as it proved that a profound and genuine revolution is possible, even on a small island that has been subjugated and neocolonialized by the United States.

SOVIET ASSISTANCE INCREASES TO 1 BILLION RUBLES

FL180214 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Yakov Ryabov, president of the USSR's State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations [GKES], has reported that the volume of USSR technical assistance to Cuba has increased to more than 1 billion rubles over the past 5 years.

Ryabov said that with Soviet technical assistance, nearly 50 industrial plants and other projects in various sectors of Cuba's economy were either built, expanded, or supplied with equipment during the past 5-year period. He added that 145 sugar mills were rebuilt and more than 100 training centers received equipment.

In an article from the magazine USSR'S FOREIGN TRADE, Ryabov stressed that this figure represented an increase of more than eight-fold when compared with that of the 1961-1965 period, when the amount of aid was 144 million rubles.

The Cuban resources put to work in cooperation with the Soviet Union have allowed an annual production of up to 350,000 tons of steel and more than 600 sugar cane harvesters. Ryabov said that with the help of his country, Cuba built two large electric plants with a combined total output capacity of approximately 1 million kilowatts.

Ryabov said that cooperation, the creation of new productive enterprises, and the increase of existing ones contributed to an increase in Cuba's industrial production, which was twice as much as that of 1960. He added that with Soviet help, new sugar mills are being built in Cuba and the railway system is being modernized.

During the current 5-year period and in the next one, the USSR will increase the volume of technical assistance to Cuba for petroleum and natural gas explorations, as well as for the extraction of petroleum. Soviet organizations will also conduct a series of studies on geological and geophysical explorations in the Cuban continental shelf, at areas the likeliest to have petroleum. With the help of Soviet specialists, more than 70 percent of the containers [not further identified] will be made in Cuba. And in order to better [word indistinct], the USSR will supply Cuba with machines and equipment.

POLISH PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION ON 5-DAY VISIT

FL170330 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Flavio Bravo, president of Cuba's National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], and Stanislaw Gucwa, marshal of Poland's parliament, headed the official talks held this afternoon between the two countries' top parliamentary organizations. The meeting, held at Havana's Palace of Conventions, occurred on the first day of the visit of the Polish parliament's top-level delegation, which had been invited by the ANPP.

On arriving at Jose Marti International Airport early this morning, Gucwa described his delegation's objectives in making the trip. [Begin Gucwa recording in Polish with simultaneous translation into Spanish] This is our first visit; therefore, there are many topics to be discussed. Most important at this time are the talks which will take place today on increasing relations between our countries and our peoples, as well as between our respective national assemblies. We would like to create organizational methods of cooperation between our two assemblies to exchange experiences as well as to seek increased continuation of cooperation in the scientific, economic, and cultural areas and, most assuredly, political cooperation. This is generally the purpose of our visit. [end recording]

Leader Meets With Malmierca

FL181400 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has received the marshal of Poland's parliament, Stanislaw Gucwa, in our capital. Gucwa addressed an assembly meeting yesterday at the Casablanca shipyard.

The meeting was held in the fraternal atmosphere which characterizes relations between the two nations. Malmierca and Gucwa exchanged views on the international situation and on bilateral relations.

When he spoke yesterday at the Casablanca shipyard, Stanislaw Gucwa stated that Polish deliveries to Cuba for shipbuilding had never diminished, and that Poland would sell Cuba increasingly improved machinery and technical equipment while assisting with technical advice.

Delegation Talks With Flavio Bravo

LD181448 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1300 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] The Polish parliamentary delegation led by Sejm Marshal Stanislaw Gucwa, which is in Cuba, has held talks on international topics with President of the Cuban National Assembly Flavio Bravo Pardo. The Polish parliamentarians were also briefed on Cuban experiences in education, social care for young people, and their patriotic upbringing.

Visit Ends

LD210339 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1600 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] A Sejm delegation led by Marshal Stanislaw Gucwa has ended a 5-day visit to Cuba. In talks with the leadership of the Cuban National Assembly, experiences in parliamentary work were exchanged and some aspects of the international situation discussed. This was the first Polish parliamentary visit to Cuba.

CABRISAS MEETS WITH JAPAN'S FINANCE MINISTER

FL180149 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Cuban Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrisas met today with Japanese Finance Minister Noburo Takeshita in a friendly climate. At the meeting they studied prospects for developing bilateral trade relations.

Terms Economic Conference Fruitful

FL181632 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1522 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Cuba's Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrizas has termed fruitful the seventh Cuba-Japan Economic Conference, recently concluded in the Japanese capital. Talks with Japanese Government officials and businessmen were held in a cordial and constructive atmosphere of mutual understanding on the future of trade, Cabrizas told PRENSA LATINA prior to his departure from Tokyo.

The Cuban minister noted that the Cuban delegation had brought up a number of important objectives for the development of relations with Japan, citing the growing interest of that country in traditional [Cuban] exports and expansion to other commodities. Cabrizas recalled that the Cuban economy had attained a 5 percent growth during 1983, despite pressures against it and the world economic crisis.

HUNGARY'S SZUROS CONCLUDES OFFICIAL VISIT

LD171908 Budapest MTI in English 1729 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Budapest, February 17 (MTI) -- On the invitation of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee a Hungarian party delegation headed by Matyas Szuros, secretary of the HSWP Central Committee, paid an official friendly visit to Cuba from Feb 13 to 16.

Matyas Szuros held discussions with Jorge Risquet, member of the Political Committee of the CCP [Cuban Communist Party], Julian Rizo and Jaime Crombet, secretaries of the CC, and Manuel Pineiro, head of the CC's American Department, and member of the CC Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, and party leaders. The secretary of the Central Committee also met Deputy Premier Jose Ramon Fernandez, member of the Central Committee of the CCP. Present at the meetings was Istvan Bognar, Hungary's ambassador to Havana.

In cordial and comradely talks the parties briefed each other on their countries, the work of their parties, and achievements in the construction of socialism; reviewed party cooperation; and agreed on topical aims of further developing contacts. A thorough exchange of views was held on topical questions of international life with special regard to Central America and the Caribbean, and on the international communist and workers' movement. The parties condemned the machinations of extreme imperialist circles and the threats to Cuba, Nicaragua and the national liberation and progressive movements in the region, and agreed on the necessity for reducing international tension, disarmament, and the intensification of the policy of detente. The politicians confirmed their parties' intention to continue to work for further development of the many-sided and successful Hungarian-Cuban relations and the consolidation of the unity of the socialist community.

15TH CTC CONGRESS TO BEGIN IN HAVANA 20 FEB

FL171412 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The 15th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] will begin on Monday, 20 February, at 0900 in the Lazaro Pena Theater, Havana. Two thousand five hundred delegates, 200 representatives of labor unions from other countries, and about 600 Cuban guests will attend the congress. This grand workers' meeting will last until 24 February. On each of the 5 days, 500 guests selected from executive committees, enterprises, labor union sections, and outstanding production and service workers will attend the plenary session.

PEREZ HERRERO DISCUSSES ROLE OF SOCIALIST MEDIA

FL180030 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Antonio Perez Herrero, member of the party's Politburo and Central Committee Secretariat, met today with the press directors of the foreign ministries of several socialist countries who are attending an event of that sector organized by the Cuban Foreign Ministry in our capital.

During a meeting held at the Central Committee offices, Perez Herrero explained to the guests several aspects of the ideological work being carried out by the Communist Party of Cuba in regard to the people's economic, political, and social education and the improvement of revolutarionary awareness.

Perez Herrero stressed the importance of the work of the socialist press in the face of the current aggressive escalation of imperialism and international reactionary forces.

He greeted and wished success to the participants of this forum, which began at the Palace of Conventions 2 days ago with delegations from the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, the GDR, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Vietnam, Mongolia, Laos, Kampuchea, and Cuba.

GROWING U.S. PRESENCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA SCORED

PA202034 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Feb 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The growing U.S. interference in the internal affairs of Central American nations is continuing to aggravate the situation in that convulsed region. Far from promoting political understanding among all concerned, Washington is fanning the Central American flames in its goal of imposing military solutions. The United States has used scores of excuses to justify its military presence in the area, but none justifies one nation's dictating another's destiny by force.

The days are going by, and the White House is rejecting all dialogue aimed at finding negotiated solutions, speeding up its maneuvers to push for an armed intervention by its Marines.

The U.S. Government charges that the critical economic, social, and political situation affecting Central America is provoked by Cuba's encouragement of subversion in the area, in complicity with the USSR. It accuses Cuba of exporting the revolution to Latin America, forcing the United States to commit a launching of its troops into the area to counter that harmful influence.

In a recent interview with the U.S. magazine NEWSWEEK, Fidel Castro answered such charges, saying that he did not believe that revolution is an exportable product. It must confess, he noted, that the example of the Cuban revolution has had important influence in the revolutionary movements of the past 20 years in Latin America. It showed, he continued, that even a small island, dominated and neocolonized by the United States, could carry out a genuine, profound revolution. However, Fidel Castro pointed out, I can say categorically, and I dare anyone to prove otherwise, that no government having had correct and friendly relations with Cuba in Latin America has ever lost Cuba's respect. The fact is that we cannot export revolution, nor can the United States prevent it.

The Cuban revolutionary leader added that the argument is cunningly handled by U.S. President Ronald Reagan to intimidate the U.S. people with the specter of McCarthy-type communism, which is now beginning to emerge among a good portion of the population. Such an argument permits Reagan to carry out an open intervention policy, such as that brutally conducted against Grenada, a small island of only 100,000 inhabitants. The Cuban leader said that the invasion of Grenada was a hard blow to the United States, a cowardly and ridiculous act which brought no glory to the United States and only served to double the fighting spirit of Nicaragua, Cuba, and the Salvadoran revolutionary groups.

At this moment, Fidel Castro stressed, we are in a stronger position to meet the U.S. aggressor, as the spirit of our people has strengthened, the revolution is stronger than ever, and Cuba has increased its prestige abroad. This shows that we do not interfere in the internal affairs of other states; Cuba merely refused to retreat in the face of Yankee military might. The peoples of our America are now more convinced than ever that Reagan does not respect international law.

Finally, Fidel Castro referred to the Contadora Group peace efforts in Central America and to the U.S. position in that respect. He said that President Reagan claims to support the Contadora efforts, but the group speaks of negotiations, agreements, and political solutions, while Reagan intends to dictate his own conditions to Nicaragua and impose his own decisions in El Salvador. Reagan, Castro concluded, imposes conditions but offers no guarantees. He aids, prepares, and encourages Honduras in its menacing attitude toward Nicaragua, and continues supplying the Somozist counterrevolutionaries and the ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] groups in the south with all the necessary aid to continue their activities along both borders. At the same time, he continues preparing joint operations with Honduras and other Central American nations near Nicaragua, all of which comprise a most critical situation which one can hardly ignore.

STONE'S RESIGNATION MARKS 'FAILURE' OF U.S. POLICY

FL171942 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Observers have commented that the resignation of Richard Stone, U.S. special envoy for Central America, reveals the profound failure of Reagan's policy in the region and the discrepancies that exist within his administration.

A White House spokesman tried to reduce the importance of the matter by saying that the resignation was not due to political reasons but rather to personal differences with Langhorne Motley, assistant secretary of state for American affairs, who favors a tougher policy toward Central America.

Stone's trips to Central America were intended to make it appear that the White House was interested in seeking peace, and to conceal the true warmongering and interventionist policy of the United States.

FMLN-FDR Cited on Resignation

PA182310 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] The Salvadoran FMLN and FDR have used the term "muddled comedy" to describe the resignation of Richard Stone, U.S. envoy for Central America, and Washington's propaganda maneuvers in the region.

In a joint document, the two organizations said that the U.S. Government has tried to establish its interventionist interests in the area through the use of international public relations maneuvers, including those undertaken by Stone and the Kissinger commission, the objectives of which are not to secure peace in Central American but to put an end to the opposition in the U.S. Congress and among the U.S. people to President Ronald Reagan's policies. The Salvadoran revolutionaries said that Stone's efforts to achieve peace in Central America were insignificant, and that he was playing at peace while seeking and making war, which unavoidably leads to political attrition for those who participate in such an absurd game.

Meanwhile, members of the Salvadoran Central Elections Council have said that U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering's visit to the Council's office constitutes interference in the country's domestic affairs. Pickering has recently visited many Salvadoran government and political party offices, a fact that many media have described as clearcut intervention.

Jose Napolean Duarte, the Christian Democratic presidential candidate, said that if he wins the elections, he will completely do away with [desarticular] the extreme rightist terrorist groups. However, observers believe that a Duarte victory would mark the initiation of yet another wave of repression and would thus provoke an extreme rightist military coup. Duarte rejected the new proposals for talks put forward by the FMLN and the FDR because, he said, the guerrillas only want to take power.

Meanwhile, Rene Fortin Magana, the Democratic Action presidential candidate, expressed support for talks with the insurgents and sent a letter to this effect to FDR President Guillermo Ungo.

SALVADORAN FDR LEADER CITED ON U.S. ACTIONS

PA191425 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 84

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] At this point, no one believes in the proclaimed U.S. goodwill toward a negotiated solution to the Central American crisis, nor in its alleged support for the Contadora Group peace efforts. The events of the past 12 months have negated all Washington's maneuvers in this regard. During this time, Nicaragua has continually been the target of the counterrevolutionary groups's attacks, which are directed and financed by the United States.

In Honduras, the Pentagon has progressed rapidly with rearming the national Army, and has converted that country's territory into a military base serving as a spearhead for Washington's adventures in the area. Finally, in El Salvador, the United States has systematically opposed all peaceful initiatives. Proof of this was the White House rejection of the latest FMLN peace proposal. The proposal in question was aimed at establishing negotiations prior to or after the 25 March elections to establish a provisional government formed by national consensus, excluding the oligarchic sectors and their death squads.

In this regard, FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo said in Washington that rejection of a negotiated solution to the crisis by the Salvadoran regime and the White House will leave as the only alternative the prospect of a massive U.S. military intervention. Ungo said that Washington presently has its eyes on the 25 March general elections. However, he warned that elections without negotiations are not a means of solving the Salvadoran conflict, and that as a result, the Salvadoran people are the ones who will suffer.

The Salvadoran revolutionary leader said that this year will be a decisive one for the conflict in El Salvador, which is approaching a crucial time. The alternatives, he reiterated, are either a political solution through negotiations or a more direct and massive U.S. military intervention. Referring to the elections scheduled for March by the dictatorship, Ungo said that they will have only a limited effect. They will also lack international clout, he said, because they are not supported by the Contadora Group, and will not be formally supervised by the OAS. Ungo said that U.S. President Reagan has supported Alvaro Magana's provisional government, and although Reagan has said repeatedly that he does not plan to send U.S. troops to El Salvador, he has not ruled out the possibility. He concluded by saying that a direct U.S. invasion of the country will increase the bloodshed but not the chances of victory for the reactionary forces.

At this time, the Salvadoran Army has no chance of prevailing over the hardened columns of the FMLN. Day after day, the soldiers suffer costly defeats; the Army rarely ventures into territories controlled by the guerrillas, and when it does it is supported by aircraft, which indiscriminately bomb the zones of operation. In the past few days, the guerrillas caused the Army several casualties in clashes in San Miguel, Cabanas, and San Vicente Departments. In Cabanas, the rebels attacked the military garrison at Villa Dolores, while in San Vicente there were heavy armed clashes at Oregano Hill, and (Chilillo). With these types of actions, the guerrillas keep the Army in constant check, and cause it so many casualties that in the end of the people will achieve victory in their struggle for liberty and independence.

Criticizes Kissinger Report

PA180426 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 84

[Text] Guillermo Ungo, president of the Salvadoran Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR], had stated that the United States is still considering the possibility of a direct and massive U.S. troops intervention as a last resort to impose its policies in El Salvador.

In an interview granted to the Mexican daily EL DIA, Ungo said that Central American is the area in which the United States is most vulnerable, because if Washington is revealed to be incapable of handling and dominating what it considers its own backyard, it will have less strength and prestige with which to impose its hegemony on a worldwide scale.

The FDR leader criticized the report issued by the so-called Kissinger commission for Central America, claiming that both its economic and military conclusions are negative and cannot be analyzed separately. He emphasized that the failure of the Alliance for Progress showed the peoples of the area that as long as there are no changes in political structures, everything that is portrayed as aid for development is nothing more than support for the advance of the oligarchy.

SALVADORAN ARMY NAMES AREAS OF FMLN CONTROL

PA181630 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 15 Feb 84

[Text] The Salvadoran Army High Command publicly admitted that FMLN forces control what it called 11 areas of resistance throughout the country.

During a press conference in San Salvador, Colonel Adolfo Blandon, Army chief of staff, and Operations Chief Lieutenant Colonel (Miguel Angel Mendez) indicated that the areas under guerrilla control are in Morazan, La Union, San Miguel, San Vicente, Cuscatlan, Usulutan, and Chalatenango Departments.

Meanwhile, rebel radio stations reported that yesterday guerrilla forces occupied Villa El Triunfo and the Atiocoyo farm in Usulutan and La Libertad Departments, respectively. They met with no opposition.

Radio Farabundo Marti reported that Army troops led by the U.S.-trained Ramon Belloso Battalion withdrew from Chalatenango after their latest counterinsurgency offensive failed, and added that during its 6 days of operations in the area the only activity carried out by the regime's troops was bombing of the civilian population.

REBELS, ARMY CLASH IN CENTRAL EL SALVADOR

PA181644 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] It has been reported that guerrilla forces and the Salvadoran Army have engaged in fierce fighting in two central departments of El Salvador. Also, the regime has admitted that a helicopter has been damaged by the rebels.

According to reports, the clashes took place in the Villa Deolores, (Los Hernandez), Santo Clara, San Idelfonso, Ilobasco, and (El Atachin) cantons in San Vicente and Cabanas Departments.

Military spokesmen have said that an Air Force helicopter had an accident in the country's central region and had to make a forced landing in Cuscatlan, 32 km east of San Salvador, the capital.

It has also been reported that Sensuntepeque, the capital of Cabanas Department, and Villa Dolores are without communication means.

The FMLN has charged that Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary bands operating in Honduras are tyring to create the necessary conditions to carry out U.S. interventionist plans, and warned that if they dare to attack El Salvador they will be destroyed.

Fighting in Usulutan Reported

PA200016 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Text] Salvadoran guerrilla columns have surrounded more than 350 troops belonging to the elite Cazadores Battalion, which operates in the southeastern Department of Usulutan.

The guerrillas have been closing the circle that they established around the regime's troops last Friday on the turnoff to San Agustin on the coastal highway. The rebels have intercepted numerous reinforcements sent by the regime, and as a result, the enemy has suffered many casualties, including 10 dead. Salvadoran Air Force planes are shelling the area indiscriminately in an attempt to break the rebels' siege.

The guerrillas have also reported that the regime's troops in Usulutan have been burning homes and sowing terror among the civilian population, using tactics similar to those used by U.S. troops in Vietnam.

REBELS, TROOPS CLASH IN GUATEMALAN DEPARTMENT

FL180230 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Guerrillas and Guatemalan troops have clashed in San Marcos Department. Meanwhile, a police patrol car was attacked in Guatemala City. Reports from Guatemala City indicated that the clash occurred at Las Delicias farm, Nuevo Progreso municipality. According to reports, a policeman was seriously wounded in the attack on the patrol car.

GRENADA

GAIRY SAYS EFFORTS MADE TO DISCREDIT PARTY, SELF

FL170345 Bridgetown CANA in English 2135 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 16 (CANA) -- Former Grenada Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy said today there appeared to be a concerted effort to discredit him and his political party in the run-up to general elections planned for the latter half of this year.

Two car loads of people drove through the Grenada capital yesterday purporting to represent the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP) and promising reprisals and recriminations against opponents if the GULP won the election, Gairy told CANA's Barbados headquarters in a phone call from St George's. [sentence as received] Nothing could be further from the truth, he said.

"I have absolutely no intention to victimise anybody," declared the 61-year-old flambuoyant Sir Eric, whose GULP was deposed in a 1979 coup by the leftist New Jewel Movement (NJM).

Sir Eric pointed an accusing finger at the weekly GRENADA VOICE, a privately owned newspaper, run he said by persons who had always been opposed to him. "When I read the VOICE...one might well think all this propaganda originates from those people," said Sir Eric, who only last month returned home after living in exile in the U.S. since the 1979 coup. He also linked the alleged propaganda campaign to a St George's incident today in which he was booed by he said about 15 Rastafarians, while a crowd of more then 100 was welcoming him back home and promising the GULP support in the 1984 election. Sir Eric reiterated that he will not be a candidate for the coming election. But he did not rule out taking some active part in the government if his GULP won and "consulted" him. "Some people have been pressing me to run (in the election) but my position is unyielding, unswerving," he told CANA.

About half a dozen political groups, including ex-Chief Minister Herbert Blaize's Grenada National Party (GNP) and the New Grenada Democratic Movement (GDM), are expected to field candidates in the poll.

In the last election in December 1976, Gairy's GULP won nine of the 15 parliamentary seats, with the other six going to an amalgam of opposition parties, including the NJM.

NJM leader Maurice Bishop, who was prime minister since the 1979 uprising, was himself killed last October when the Army seized power in a similar coup. The short-lived military junta was however ousted in a U.S.-Caribbean invasion of the island.

Eager To Erase Reputation

FL201425 Bridgetown CANA in English 2340 GMT 19 Feb 84

[Excerpt] St. George's, Grenada, Feb 19 (CANA) -- Sir Eric Gairy, keen to erase a reputation for eccentricity and to show that he has "developed intellectually" after nearly five years in exile, is considering his choices now that he has decided to opt out of this year's elections.

"I am watching from outside this time, my position is unyielding, unswerving... I am staying out of the elections," Gairy, Grenada's last elected prime minister, said in a recent interview. But he has frequently talked about being "the power behind the throne" and political observers expect he will seek to use his influence if his Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), which has won five of the last seven elections here, is returned to office.

Gairy appointed himself advisor to the GULP government after the vote in 1961, four years after he had been disfranchised by the British, the colonial rulers for harassing opponents.

In the next few months, Gairy says he will work to revive the GULP and assist in the selection of candidates "for a glorious landslide" in the elections. He also plans to reactivate the oddly-named Grenada Manual and Mental Workers Union he founded in 1950, but which like the GULP, lapsed after the leftist coup on March 13,1979 ended three decades of Gairy's domination of the local political scene.

Gairy, who was 62 yesterday, says he would also like to do some lecturing, write a newspaper column, and maybe even write his biography. "I have learnt a lot while in the United States and I would like to share this for the benefit of my country," Gairy said. He speaks of being "much more intellectually advanced than I used to be."

His return on January 21 from exile was paved by the U.S.-led invasion last October 25 following a violent Army coup six days earlier that saw the murder of Gairy's successor, Maurice Bishop.

Gairy has launched what looks like a crusade to rid himself of a reputation for eccentricity -- his internationally publicised belief in unidentified flying objects (UFO's) -- and repression, as evidenced by the notorious "Mongoose Gang" police auxiliary that terrorised political opponents in the 1970's. He now tries to downplay the UFO affairs by saying he had spoken out on many issues, including women's rights but these stances were ignored by the media. He denies any knowledge of the Mongoose Gang which was heavily criticized by a Commission of Enquiry in 1974.

For a start, Gairy has told Nicholas Brathwaite, head of the interim government installed after the invasion, that the main reason behind his standing down, is the hope for a comparative international enquiry into the last dozen years of his rule and the four and a half years of Bishop's regime.

If he led a government after the election, and Gairy says nobody could stop him if he wanted to, it would compromise public servants in giving evidence to an enquiry, the former prime minister said.

Gairy says he has returned to Grenada a more tolerant individual.

"My exile offered me a chance to reflect on all aspects of life of Grenada and upon myself. I am returning home a much better man with a new lifestyle, a greater respect for and appreciation of moral values, temperance and moderation in all things, a greater sense of balance...of tolerance, better appreciation for the views of others, and a broader and deeper love for my people."

OFFICIAL TO MEET WITH CANDIDATES ON ELECTION

FL171406 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] In Grenada, Roy Chasteau, newly appointed supervisor of elections, has invited prospective candidates in Grenada's first parliamentary election since 1976 to meet with him next Tuesday to discuss election preparations.

Mr Chasteau says he wants to get the feeling of prospective candidates on the question of verifying voter registration lists and the role to be played by election monitors.

UK LAWYERS ARRIVE TO DEFEND COARD, COLLEAGUES

FL171448 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Two British barristers and a Jamaican lawyer have arrived in Grenada to take charge of the legal defense of about 40 members of the former Marxist government who have been in prison since the U.S.-led military intervention last October. The lawyers were retained by relatives of ex-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, one of those being held at Richmond Hill Prison in St George's.

Group To Defend Detainees

FL172034 Bridgetown CANA in English 1925 GMT 17 Feb 84

[By George Worme]

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Feb 17 (CANA) -- A British lawyer, who is here seeking to represent persons detained in connection with the killings in last October's military coup, has announced the formation of a group in London to defend the interests of the detainees.

Lord Anthony Gifford told CANA the Committee for Human Rights in Grenada comprises British members of Parliament, labor leaders, lawyers, religious leaders, and influential West Indians residing in the English capital.

"The committee reflects a very considerable concern which is being expressed in the United Kingdom about the present state of affairs in Grenada where foreign forces are in control and where a great number of people are being held without trial or charged in detention," Gifford said. Close to 40 persons, including ex-Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard, have been held at the Richmond Hill Prison here since last October's U.S.-led invasion which followed the army coup in which Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and several others were killed October 19. No charges have yet been laid.

Gifford said the committee was responsible for dispatching a three-member team of barristers, including himself, to look after the interests of the detainees. Gifford said if the detainees are charged, the committee would have no problem finding the necessary finance to hire a defense team for them. "If they are charged, people in England, relatives, and friends of the detainees in Grenada are willing to make a contribution to pay for the detainees." "As far as I know definitely no charges have been brought against any detainee and not one of them have been served with notices as to what the accusations are against them," Gifford said.

He said a number of lawyers in Britain, including some Caribbean nationals, have expressed "readiness to join the (defense) team, and we would discuss with the detainees how large a team they would like for this."

OFFICIALS CONTACTING STUDENTS IN CUBA, GDR

FL180236 St George's Domestic Service in English 2300 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] The interim administration is continuing its efforts to contact students studying in socialist countries and to make arrangements for those who would like to return home.

In an interview with the interim member responsible for education, Mr Patrick Emmanuel, he said that three students were studying in the GDR and are now in London on their way home. Eighteen students were studying in that country.

Mr Emmanuel said that 14 students are studying in the Soviet Union and their interests and those in the GDR are being looked after by the British Embassy.

He stated that 172 students are still in Cuba and 30 have returned home so far. Mr Emmanuel noted, however, that there is a possibility that there could be more Grenadians in those countries who went there for military training because the figures that are quoted are based on statistics from the Ministry of Education, which only accounts for students studying civilian courses.

NDP DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN MERGER TALKS

FL180140 Bridgetown CANA in English 2312 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] St George's, Grenada, Feb 17 (CANA) -- Grenada's two-week-old National Democratic Party (NDP) today denied it was involved in merger talks with the Grenada Democratic Movement (GDM), led by University of the West Indies law lecturer Dr Francis Alexis.

The denial by a NDP spokesman followed an announcement by Alexis that the GDM, the NDP, and the Grenada National Party (GNP) of former Premier Herbert Blaize were holding talks and a merger was likely around monthend in time for general elections later this year.

Spokesman Bob Grant said his party was holding merger talks only with the GNP. "To the best of my knowledge and understanding, we are not holding talks presently with GDM, and let me repeat not holding talks presently with GDM", Grant, who is a top Grenadian barrister-at-law, told CANA. However, he did not rule out the possibility.

FOREIGN MINISTER ON GRENADA, VENEZUELA DISPUTE

FL180035 Bridgetown CANA in English 2230 GMT 17 Feb 84

[By Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 17 (CANA) -- Guyana, which roundly condemned last October's U.S.-led invasion of Grenada, said today it will recognise the island's interim government only when satisfied that the Advisory Council is not being subjected to external interference.

Guyana "is not satisfied that it (the interim government) is not being subjected to outside interference," and that is why Georgetown does not recognise the Grenada caretaker administration, Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson told reporters.

Guyana was highly critical of the October intervention and blasted those countries, including seven of its partners in the Caribbean Community (Caricom) which participated in the operation.

The invasion, Jackson said, "violated the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and other instruments and international law, and caused deep fissures in the relations between hemispheric states."

The Guyana Foreign Minister said the invasion had also presented a problem to moves to have the Caribbean declared a zone of peace. Some countries were already having second thoughts on the issue, he added.

Jackson also dealt at the news conference with the Guyana-Venezuela territorial dispute, and said the question of settlement of the controversy in accordance with the provisions of a Geneva agreeement was now in the hands of United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

He said steps will be accelerated this year to find a peaceful solution to the long-standing issue.

Venezuela calims the mineral-rich Essequibo region, which constitutes nearly 70 per cent of Guyanese territory. The area was ceded to Guyana, then a British colony, at the turn of the century under an agreement between Caracas and Britain.

Jackson said Guyana maintained a vibrant and successful foreign policy thrust during 1983.

"In maintaining an anti-imperialist orientation and by inflinching adherence to principles and the norms of international law, we played a modest and useful role in the councils of the world in which our counsel and support were at times solicited", he said.